

Herald Tribune

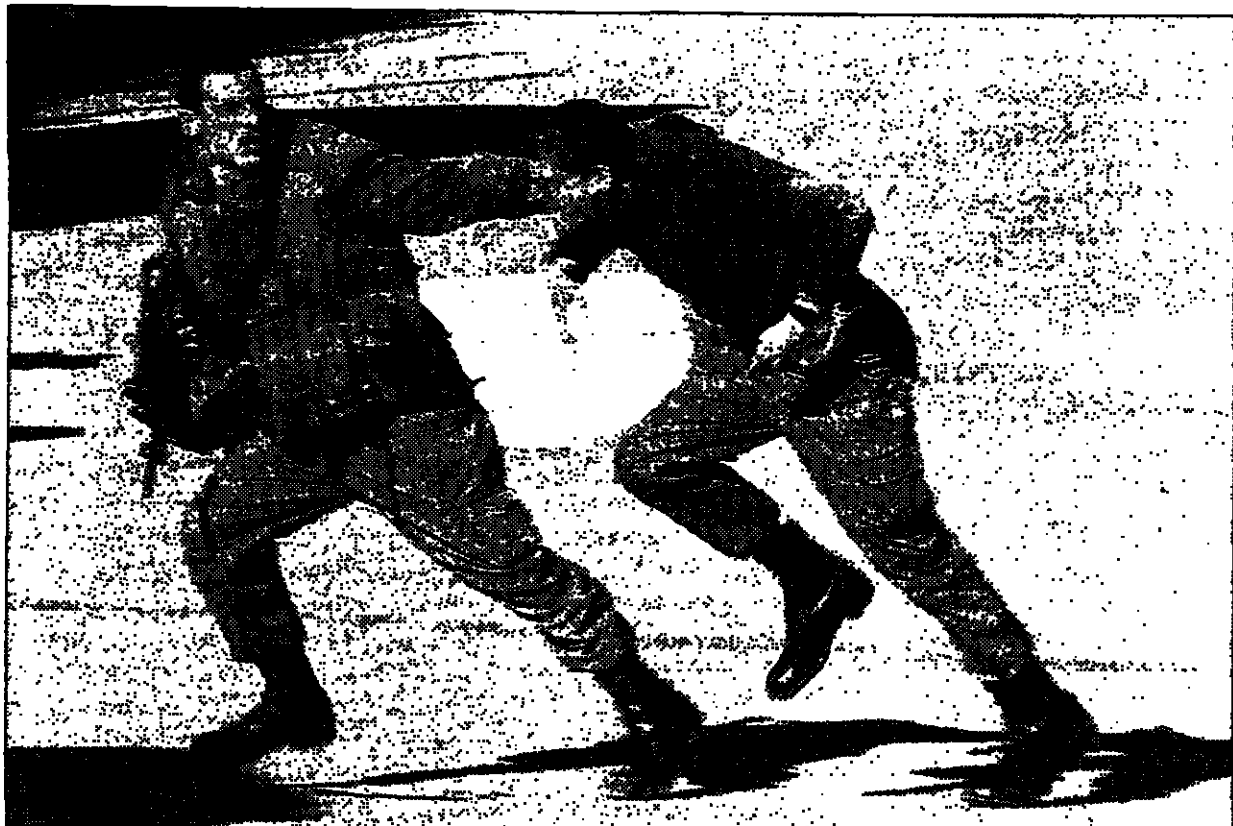
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An Israeli soldier identified as Avi Buskila, left, dragging off Noam Friedman after he fired into a Hebron crowd.

Israeli Soldier Wounds 6 in Hebron

By Serge Schmemmann
New York Times Service

HEBRON, West Bank — An Israeli soldier with what was described as a history of mental problems opened fire into a crowded Palestinian market in Hebron on Wednesday, wounding six Arabs and delaying the completion of the agreement on a transfer of authority in this city.

Although the off-duty soldier said his intent was to sabotage the Hebron

agreement, both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader — who were supposed to have met Wednesday to conclude the agreement — acted quickly to prevent the incident from flaring into a confrontation.

Mr. Netanyahu telephoned Mr. Arafat to declare his regret and contempt for the shooting, and Mr. Arafat spread the word through his lieutenants and the Palestinian radio that there was to be no retaliatory violence.

The quick and effective cooperation to defuse a potentially violent situation seemed to reflect the new recognition of their mutual dependence that has come to Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat through the protracted haggling over Hebron.

By contrast, the crisis over the opening of a tourist tunnel in Jerusalem three months ago quickly escalated into a shooting war, in large part because of

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Wall Street's 'Best of All Worlds' U.S. Stocks Finish a Banner Year With 26% Gain

By John Mintz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Dow Jones industrial average ended 1996 with a gain of 26 percent to follow up the blue-chip measure's 33 percent rise in 1995 — the best back-to-back annual performances by the U.S. stock market since Dwight Eisenhower was president.

The Dow closed out the year on a sour note, nose-diving 101 points Tuesday to end at 6,448.27 after unexpectedly strong economic data fueled fears of inflation. But the day's sell-off hardly marred the market's recent enthusiasm for itself. The last comparable two-year market surge was in 1954 and 1955, when the booming postwar Dow rose 44 percent and 29 percent.

This time, the U.S. stock market is riding its longest bull run — the Dow enters 1997 with six consecutive years of share price increases behind it. That is a first in the blue-chip barometer's 100-year history.

The Dow average, composed of 30 large industrial companies, reached record highs 44 times last year. It reached its latest closing high of 6,560.91 on Friday, breaking the record of 6,547.79 set Nov. 25.

The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, which represents three-fourths of the value of all U.S. stocks, meanwhile has rallied 66 percent in a little more than two years, although it dropped 13.11 points Tuesday, or 1.74 percent, to 740.74.

Stocks in much of the rest of the world also performed well, with markets from Frankfurt to Hong Kong posting record gains, often on the spillover effect of Wall Street's protracted rise. (Page 9)

While some stock-market analysts expect a "correction" — a drop of at least 10 percent — soon, most of the economic conditions that caused shares to rise in the first place still seem to be present: waves of new money entering

employee retirement accounts, gently rising corporate earnings, little foreseeable danger of inflation or recession and unappealingly low rates of return from bonds and bank certificates of deposit.

"In the eyes of many in the financial markets, we had entered one of those periods that seems to be the best of all possible worlds," Ronald Talley of the WEFA Group of economic consultants wrote late in 1996.

"The economy is growing, but only at a moderate pace, inflation is low and stable, and monetary policy seemed likely to be held steady."

"We should bow in thanks" to Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said Michael Lipper, president of Lipper Analytical Services Inc., a mutual-fund research group. Under Mr. Greenspan's direction, the Fed kept a tight grip on interest rates without

tipping the economy into recession.

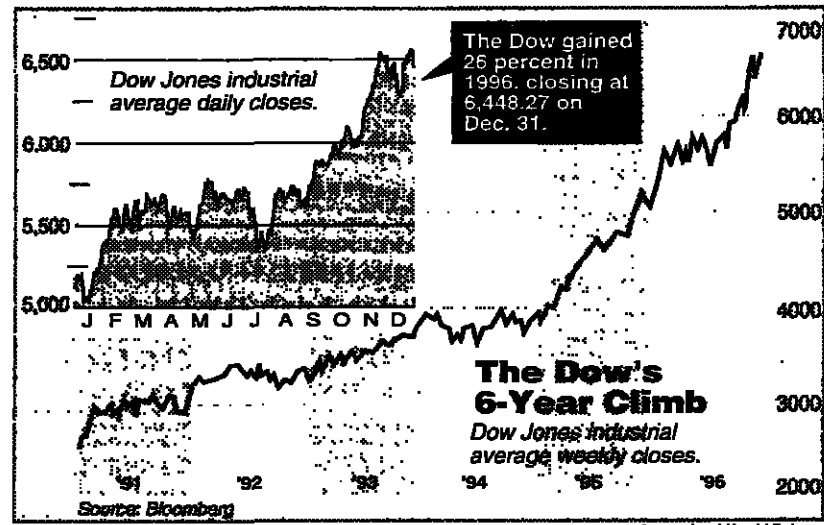
"Investors feel the principal game in town is the stock market," Mr. Lipper said. "This is one very strong market."

The gains were not uniform across the market: U.S. small-company stocks returned only about 12 percent, prompting many to speculate that they will outrun bigger companies' shares this year.

But the U.S. market's overall surge induced investors to pour money into mutual funds in staggering amounts in 1996. About \$33.6 billion in new cash sloshed into mutual funds in November alone, on top of \$34.5 billion in October, according to the Investment Company Institute, an industry trade group.

Now U.S. mutual funds — including money-market and bond funds — hold

See DOW, Page 10



THE YEAR IN FIGURES — 1996 closing share prices on the major U.S. and international stock exchanges, as well as year-end currency rates, can be found in the Business/Finance pages beginning on Page 9.

Some Places the Boon of Globalization Forgot: Africa and Mexico

Investors Skip the Sub-Sahara and Its Many Flaws

By Stephen Buckley
Washington Post Service

ACCRA, Ghana — For years, customers could not call Kwabena Afari, a pineapple exporter, directly in Aburi, his hometown 65 miles north of here.

His clients first had to call this city, Ghana's capital. Then someone here would call the Aburi post office. Then a post office messenger would go to Mr. Afari's home.

If anything went wrong, and it frequently did, he might not receive the message for days.

"Customers were complaining,"

said Mr. Afari, 46, who recently bought a cellular telephone. "My guy in Turin got fed up. He said, 'I can't work with you any more. It's too hard to communicate.'"

Mr. Afari's struggles are an example

Third of a series

of what ails sub-Saharan Africa and its roughly 600 million people. As a great wave of trade and foreign investment transforms the global economy, drawing hundreds of millions out of poverty in developing countries and creating industries and jobs, sub-Saharan

Africa, among other regions, has been left behind.

Afflicted by political instability, wrongheaded economic policies, lack of infrastructure and a dearth of investment in education and health care, the world's poorest people have grown poorer in the last decade. The great engines of growth in the post-Cold War world — trade and foreign investment — essentially never started turning in African countries, despite the efforts of a number of nations to implant the developing world's new free-market model. "It's not that we

See AFRICA, Page 4

Riches Yet to Trickle Down to Latin America's Poor

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — The global marketplace has bypassed Hilda Santiago, Mrs. Santiago, mother of five, and her husband scratched out a meager living of about 50 cents a day on a rented farm plot in the mountainous southwestern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

"We had nothing to eat," said Mrs. Santiago, an Indian who said she did not know her age and attended only two years of school. "The children's stomachs were empty."

She is among the 1,000 people —

most from Mexico's poorest regions — who arrive in this capital city every day in search of a better life. Few find it. After two months of job hunting, the ragged family recently returned to their remote mountain village.

Their disappointment is shared by millions in a country that only three years ago appeared set to become a showcase of how free trade and private investment can transform a developing country. Having opened its economy and welcomed billions of dollars in investment capital, Mexico signed a landmark free trade agreement with the United States and Canada and waited

for an economic takeoff. Instead, its currency collapsed, investors pulled out of the stock market and the country slid into deep recession.

Now, Mexico stands as a prime case study for critics who argue that globalization — the vast expansion of trade and investment in the 1990s — is proving not to be a reliable mechanism for raising the Third World out of poverty.

The critics, who include leftist politicians, labor unions in both developed and developing countries, and advocates for traditional Third World aid

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Clinton's Stance on Rights Challenges Ties With Asia

'Democracy' List Excluded Group of Nations

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — On a recent visit to Thailand, President Bill Clinton took a backhanded swipe at a large group of East Asian countries by excluding them from a list he named to illustrate "democracy's march across Asia."

Speaking at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, he said that the citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan "show us that accountable government and the rule of law can thrive in an Asian climate," while the people of Cambodia and Mongolia proved that democratic change was "possible in difficult circumstances."

Mr. Clinton added that the United States would continue to support those who stood for freedom in Asia.

"Doing so reflects not only our ideals, it advances our interests," he said. "A nation that respects the rights of its own people is far more likely to respect the rights of its neighbors, to keep its word, to play by the rules, to be a reliable partner in diplomacy and trade, and in the pursuit of peace of stability."

Pointedly excluded from Mr. Clinton's list of states that respect political freedom were China and most of the

countries of Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Burma, Brunei and Laos.

Mr. Clinton's list was not a feature of the press reports of his speech. But officials in the region were quick to note which countries met with his approval and which did not.

As the Clinton administration prepares to start its second term later this month, Asian officials and analysts worry that its doctrinaire approach to the promotion of American democratic ideals will provide a flimsy basis for the stronger, more stable relationship Washington says it wants to develop with Asia.

"President Clinton's agenda, which gives priority to restoring trade imbalances and to promoting democracy and human rights overseas, is not a recipe for a successful leadership role in Asia," said Paul Dibb, head of the Strategic and Defense Studies Center at the Australian National University in Canberra.

America's stance on such issues, he said, "threatens to tear the fabric of

See PARTNERS, Page 4

AGENDA

Polish Hostages Freed in Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen (Reuters) — Five Polish tourists held hostage by Yemeni tribesmen since last week were released by their abductors Wednesday and driven to the Polish Embassy in San'a, a senior diplomat said.

The Polish ambassador to San'a, Krzysztof Supraczyk, said he presumed the freed hostages would leave Yemen soon.

A Polish diplomat said earlier that the crisis neared its end after Yemen had given written assurances to the abductors that it would not prosecute them, but Yemeni officials declined to confirm that report.

The tourists were kidnapped on their way to archaeological sites in western Yemen last week. It was the second abduction of European vacationers in a month.

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Taliban's Rise to Supreme Power

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Gingrich Suffers a Setback in House

ASIAPACIFIC Page 7.

China's Legal Reforms: Little Effect



ACCUSED — Michael Irvin of the Dallas Cowboys on Tuesday after the police said he and a teammate were being investigated on rape charges. Page 16.

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What's With Paris?

Europeans Question the French Over Disagreements With U.S.

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — A string of French diplomatic fumbles that led to headbutting with Washington on issues as diverse as Zaire, Iraq, trade, United Nations leadership and NATO reform has also sown doubts among its European neighbors about France's methods and manners in seeking a stronger Europe, Western policymakers say.

These senior officials in Europe, interviewed by phone in half a dozen capitals in recent days, unanimously worried about that France seemed to be making a U-turn away from its own self-proclaimed strategy of harnessing U.S. support for European unity.

As spelled out a year ago by President Jacques Chirac, the new French approach amounted to jettisoning the Gaullist creed that Europe could only be united by the challenge of supplanting the U.S. role in European affairs.

While the new strategy still gets lip service in Paris, in practice it seems to be giving way increasingly to flare-ups with Washington as French officials publicly berate their U.S. counterparts — only to have events backfire on France in the Middle East, Africa and in international organizations.

"We don't know what went wrong exactly," said a German official, adding that his government did not understand why France in the last six months seemed bent on undoing Mr. Chirac's honeymoon with Washington. Mr. Chirac's change in policy "was exactly what we all want in Europe," the

See FRANCE, Page 5

It's Anything but Sweet as Florida Rivals Tangle in the Sugar Bowl

By Rick Bragg
New York Times Service

NEW ORLEANS — Maybe it will unfold this way:

The University of Florida and Florida State University meet on a field of honor in the Superdome here Thursday night, and sportsmanship reigns. There is no trash talk, no dirty play or accusations of dirty play. Two respected football coaches gaze at each other across the artificial turf, in mutual admiration.

And the fans, stone-cold sober every one, cheer for their team without cursing the other team, even a little. Then, when the Sugar Bowl game is over,

the winners and the losers embrace in fellowship, and all drive home together on Interstate 10, in a caravan of brotherly love.

It could happen.

And swine could fly. Last time, there were fistfights in the elevator lobby of a nearby hotel, Joanne Fleece, University of Florida class of 1953, said of the most recent Sugar Bowl meeting between the two rivals, two years ago. "It was really bad. I walked up eight flights of stairs" just to avoid the warring fans.

"There was almost too much emotion," said Mrs. Fleece, who lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, with her husband, Joe, also a Florida alumnus. "I hope it won't be that bad this time."

But as fans filter into the neutral ground of New Orleans to see their teams knock heads for the second time this season, the emotions are more intense, more raw than ever in a rivalry that is by tradition hot to the touch.

"It is your basic battle between good and evil," said one Florida State backer, Bill Evans, a real estate broker in Jacksonville. "We are good, and they are evil. Evil always loses to good."

The passions run strong anytime they play. The schools are just 134 miles (215 kilometers) apart — Florida at Gainesville, Florida State at Tallahassee. The alumni see each other every day, in company boardrooms and courthouse cafés, and when they turn out the lights to go to bed. In Florida, a mixed

marriage might not have anything to do with race.

One Florida legislator, having been splashed with what appeared to be urine at the first meeting of the teams this year, in Tallahassee, called the fanaticism "the dark side of college football." The older alumni, of a more genteel age, shake their heads sadly at what the rivalry has become but are flocking to this game in Cadillacs and chartered planes.

Now circumstances have turned the already intense heat up to a faster boil. Part of it is that this bowl game is a rare major-college rematch — the Florida State Seminoles beat the University of Florida Gators just a month ago, in the regular sea-

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Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1,000 Din	Malta	55 c.
Cyprus	G. £1.00	Nigeria	125.00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 D.Kr.	Oman	1,250 Rials
Finland	12.00 F.M.	Catar	10.00 Rials
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £1.00
Great Britain	£ 0.85	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Korea	K. Sh. 150	U.S. M.L. (Eur.)	\$ 1.20
Kuwait	600 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zm. \$30.00



A Face of Conservative Islam / From Obscurity to Supreme Authority

For Afghans, Taleban's Rise to Power Was Deliverance From Tyranny

By John F. Burns and Steve LeVine
New York Times Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — When neighbors came to Mullah Mohammed Omar in the spring of 1994, they had a story that was shocking even by the grim standards of the 18-year-old civil war in Afghanistan.

Two teenage girls from the mullah's village of Singesar had been abducted by one of the gangs of mujahidin, or "holy warriors," who controlled much of the Afghan countryside. The girls' heads had been shaved, they had been taken to a checkpoint outside the village and they had been repeatedly raped.

At the time, Mr. Omar was an obscure figure, a former guerrilla commander against occupying Soviet forces who had returned home in disgust at the terror mujahidin groups were inflicting on Afghanistan.

He was living as a student, or *talib*, in a mud-walled religious school that centered on rote learning of the Koran.

But the girls' plight moved him to act. Gathering 30 former guerrilla fighters, who mustered behind them 16 Kalashnikov rifles, he led an attack on the checkpoint, freed the girls and tied the checkpoint commander by a noose to the barrel of an old Soviet tank.

As those around him shouted "God is Great!" Mr. Omar ordered the tank barrel raised and left the dead man hanging as a grisly warning.

The Singesar episode is now part of Afghan folklore. Barely 30 months after taking up his rifle, Mr. Omar is the supreme ruler of most of Afghanistan. The mullah, a heavyset 38-year-old who lost his right eye in the war against the Russians, is known to his followers as Prince of All Believers. He leads an Islamic religious movement, the Taleban, that has conquered 20 of the 32 provinces in Afghanistan.

Mr. Omar's call to arms in Singesar is only part of the story of the rise of the Taleban that emerged from weeks of traveling across Afghanistan and from scores of interviews with Afghans, diplomats and others who followed the movement from its earliest days in 1994.

It is a story that is still unfolding as the Taleban struggle to consolidate their hold on Kabul, which fell three months ago to a Taleban force of a few thousand fighters who, after a long siege, entered the city with barely a shot fired.

But the Taleban, despite their protestations of independence, did not score their successes alone. Pakistani leaders saw domestic political gains in supporting the movement, which draws most of its support from the ethnic Pashtun who predominate along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Perhaps more important, Pakistani leaders, in funneling ammunition, fuel and food to the Taleban, hoped to advance an old dream of linking their country, through Afghanistan, to an economic and political alliance with the Muslim states of Central Asia.

At crucial moments during the two years of the Taleban's rise to power, the United States stood aside. It did little to discourage support for the Afghan mullahs both from Pakistan and from another American ally, Saudi Arabia, which found its own reasons for supporting the Taleban in their conservative brand of Islam.

In fact, U.S. policy on the Taleban has been a mix of support and hostility. The Taleban have found favor with some American officials, who see the group's implacable hostility toward Iran as an important counterweight to Iran in the region.

But other officials remain uncomfortable about the Taleban's policies on women, which they say have created the most backward-looking and intolerant society anywhere in Islam. They say that the Taleban, despite promises to the contrary, have done nothing to root out the narcotics traffickers and terrorists who found a haven in Afghanistan under the mujahidin.

In its most recent policy statement on Afghanistan, the U.S. State Department called on other nations to "engage" with the Taleban in hopes of moderating their policies. But the statement came as the Taleban were tightening still further their Islamic social code, particularly the taboos that have banned women from working, closed girls' schools and required all women beyond puberty to cloak themselves from head to toe.

The result, so far, is that not a single one of the member countries of the United Nations has recognized the Taleban government and none have come forward with offers of the reconstruction aid the Taleban say will be needed to rebuild Afghanistan.

How the Taleban succeeded in pacifying much of a country that had spent years spiral-

ing into chaos is not, as their progress from Singesar to Kabul attests, primarily a question of military prowess.

Much more, it was a matter of a group of Islamic nationalists catching a high tide of discontent that built up when the mujahidin turned from fighting Russians to plundering, and just as often killing, their own people. By 1994, after five years of mujahidin terror, the Taleban movement's time had come.

One man who has seen more of the Taleban than any other outsider, Rahimullah Yusufzai, a reporter for The News in Pakistan, put it simply: "The Afghan people had been waiting a long time for relief from their miseries, and they would have accepted anybody who would have freed them from the tyranny."

How the Taleban succeeded in pacifying a country that had spent years spiraling into chaos is not primarily a question of military prowess. Much more, it was a matter of a group of Islamic nationalists catching a high tide of discontent.

In any case, Mr. Omar contends that the decision to act at Singesar was not, at the time, envisaged as a step toward power.

Mr. Omar has met only once with a foreign reporter, Mr. Yusufzai. At their meeting in Kandahar, headquarters of the Taleban's governing body, Mr. Omar said that the men at Singesar intended originally only to help local villagers.

"We were fighting against Muslims who had gone wrong," he said. "How could we remain quiet when we could see crimes being committed against women and the poor?"

But appeals were soon coming in from villages all around Kandahar.

With each new action against the mujahidin, the Taleban's manpower, and arsenal, grew. Mujahidin fighters, and sometimes whole units, switched sides, so that the Taleban quickly came to resemble a coalition of many of the country's fighting groups.

Moving rapidly east and west of Kandahar in the winter of 1994 and the spring of 1995, the Taleban, whose force had become unmatched, rolled up territory. Sometimes, using money said to have come from Saudi Arabia, Taleban paid mujahidin commanders to give up.

But mostly, it was enough for Taleban units to appear on the horizon with the fluttering white flags symbolizing their Islamic puritanism. "In most places," recalled Mr. Yusufzai, "the people welcomed the Taleban as a deliverance, so there was no need to fight."

Another event in September 1994 gave the Taleban their most important external backer. Nasseerullah Khan Babar, the interior minister of Pakistan, had a vision for extricating his country from the precarious position created in 1947 by the partition of India from territories running along British India's frontiers with Afghanistan.

Mr. Babar saw a Pakistan linked to the newly independent Muslim republics of what had been Soviet Central Asia, along roads and highways running across Afghanistan.

He believed that stability in Afghanistan would mean a potential economic bonanza for Pakistan and a strategic breakthrough for the West.

"It was in the West's overall interest," he said in an interview in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital. "Unless the Central Asian states have an opening to the sea, they will never be free from Russia."

When the Taleban rose to power around Kandahar, Mr. Babar used government funds to arrange a "peace convoy" of trucks to run rice, clothing and other gifts north from Pakistan through Kandahar to Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan.

But outside the American-built airport at Kandahar, a mujahidin commander guarding one of the thousands of checkpoints seized the convoy, demanding ransom. Once again, the Taleban intervened, freed the convoy and hanging the commander who hijacked it.

Mr. Babar's subsequent enthusiasm for the Taleban gave rise to a widespread belief among the group's opponents that it was a Pakistani creation, or at least that its growing military power was sustained by transfers of cash, arms and ammunition from Pakistan.

Because of Pakistan's close ties with the United States, it was a short step for these Taleban opponents to conclude that Washington was also backing the Taleban.

Indeed, there were ties between American officials and the growing Taleban movement that were considerably broader than those to any other Western country.

From early on, American diplomats in Islamabad had made regular visits to Kandahar to see Taleban leaders. In briefings for reporters, these diplomats cited what they saw as positive aspects of the Taleban. These included the movement's capacity to end the war in Afghanistan and its promises to put an end to the use of Afghanistan as a base for drug trafficking and international terrorism.

UNMENTIONED, but probably most important to Washington, was that the Taleban, who are Sunni Muslims, have a deep hostility for Iran, America's nemesis, where the ruling majority belong to the rival Shiite sect of Islam.

American officials, however, denied providing any direct assistance, covert or otherwise, to the Taleban.

Officials like Robin Raphael, the top State Department official dealing directly with matters involving Afghanistan, have placed heavy emphasis on the hope that contacts with the new rulers in Kabul will encourage them to soften their policies, especially toward women.

They also say that the United States sees the Taleban, with their Islamic conservatism, as the best, and perhaps the only, chance that Afghanistan will halt the poppy growing and opium production that have made Afghanistan, with an estimated 2,500 tons of raw opium a year, the world's biggest single-country source of the narcotic. A similar argument is made on the issue of the network of international terrorists, many of them Arabs, who have set up bases inside Afghanistan.

But as the Taleban consolidate their power in Kabul, the signs of cooperation are not strong. The sense that these Taleban leaders now give is that they see little reason to accommodate the West.

Ross Everson, a coordinator for private Western aid agencies in Kabul, visited one of the city's top Taleban officials, Mullah Mohammed Mutaqi, to appeal for a turn toward what Mr. Everson called "the doctrine of moderation that the Islamic faith is famous for."

In reply, Mr. Mutaqi said, "I must ask you, are you the Muslim here, or am I? If you Westerners want to help us, you are welcome. Otherwise you are free to leave Afghanistan. You may think we cannot survive without you, but I can tell you, God will provide the Taleban with everything we need."

Blast of Cold And Misery Is 1997's Gift To Europe

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Europe entered 1997 in the clasp of a deep freeze Wednesday as bone-chilling winds added to snow and ice brought more deaths and misery.

As temperatures fell to new lows, the death toll from the prolonged cold weather climbed above 160.

In Britain, the south of England suffered the coldest temperatures in the country, with Kent registering a record low of minus 21 degrees centigrade (minus 6 Fahrenheit).

Brussels shivered in its lowest temperature since records began in 1921, with minus 14 degrees centigrade (7 Fahrenheit) recorded overnight on New Year's Eve. Temperatures in Poland have fallen to as low as minus 37 centigrade (35 Fahrenheit), while in Austria they have averaged minus 15 centigrade (5 Fahrenheit).

One of the worst-hit countries in the cold wave has been Romania, where at least 43 people have died. At least 28 people were reported to have died in Poland, 14 in France, at least 10 in Russia and 8 in Germany. Deaths from the cold have also been reported in Austria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine.

Air, sea and rail services have been disrupted in many countries. The airport in Genoa was closed after a blizzard Monday, reopened Tuesday, then was forced to shut again Wednesday because of snowfalls that blanketed northern Italy.



Like much of the rest of Europe, Madrid struggled with snow and cold on New Year's Eve.

Still, the freezing conditions did not deter hundreds of thousands of Europeans from hitting the icy streets to ring in the New Year.

About 350,000 revelers marked the traditional Scottish celebration, Hogmanay, in the streets of Edinburgh, while 200,000 in Paris braved the coldest New Year for 27 years to throng the Champs Elysees in temperatures that touched minus 11 degrees centigrade (12 degrees Fahrenheit).

In London, Big Ben, the bell in the tower of the House of Commons, was silenced on New Year's Eve after the timing mechanism of the clock froze. Technicians managed to de-ice the works in time for the chimes to ring out at midnight.

In Rome, two Italians and a Moroccan sprinkled the muddy waters of the Tiber with sparkling wine before plunging in from the Cavour bridge, cheered by hundreds of onlookers, to maintain a New Year tradition begun

in 1946. The midnight bathers were helped by a sudden easing of a 10-day cold snap in Rome.

In Austria, about 150,000 people waltzed into 1997 in the streets of Vienna despite fresh snowfalls up to 30 centimeters (12 inches).

And the weather, with temperatures as low as minus 20 centigrade (minus 4 Fahrenheit), did not stop 40,000 revelers turning out at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to see in the New Year. (APR, Reuters)

U.S. Parks Target Car Culture Rules on Grand Canyon Flights Herald New Strategy

By James Sterngold
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Interior Department has taken a step toward eliminating intrusions of man into the Grand Canyon, restricting aircraft overflights in a harbinger of an overall plan to restrict even automobile traffic at the canyon and in some of America's other heavily traveled parks.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced new restrictions on flights by small airplanes and helicopters that carry tourists over the Grand Canyon. But the rules are just part of a strategy that, if planners have their way, would eventually all but eliminate cars from the Grand Canyon and other popular national parks.

If the plan is executed, it would amount to a dramatic rethinking of how parks like the Grand Canyon in northern Arizona and Yosemite in northern California will be managed. The postwar vision of the national parks as an extension of the uniquely American automobile culture of freedom and convenience is disappearing.

"In some ways, this says, no more, we are not going to remain slaves to the automobile, as we have been," said Rob Amberger, superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park. "We have to create a new future that is not completely dependent on so many cars and buses in the canyon."

The Grand Canyon plan was adopted earlier this year after a series of public hearings and comment. But in implementing it, Mr. Amberger and other Park Service officials will be struggling to honor two contradictory mandates: to preserve the parks in their natural glory and to keep them accessible to the traveling public. They may face resistance from those who see the restrictions as a concession to environmentalists and a violation of their right to drive their cars right up to the geysers and the wildlife.

Under the plan, which would begin this

year and is expected to be completed over the next 15 years, buses, shuttles and perhaps light rail service would replace access to autos and the paving of large stretches of prime locations for parking lots.

As it is, the entrance fee at the Grand Canyon and 46 other national parks will double on Jan. 15, to \$20 from \$10. At the Grand Canyon, 80 percent of the entrance fees will for the first time remain at the park, to be spent on capital improvements, rather than be sent to Washington.

Senator John McCain, a Republican from Arizona who has been fighting for years to limit flights over the Grand Canyon, said he planned to introduce legislation extending the plan to other national parks.

"You're either going to have to suffer the inconvenience of parking outside the park and taking mass transit, or you're going to have to leave a reservation," he said. "That's ultimately where we are heading."

The new rules would force the government every step of the way on the flight restrictions, and had threatened to file a lawsuit if the ban on flights was perceived to be too restrictive. But there has not been organized resistance to the proposed ban on automobiles, park officials said.

The new rules announced in Washington on Tuesday would ban flights over some large swaths of the Grand Canyon National Park, which covers 1,904 square miles (2,840 square kilometers). About 45 percent of the area is already banned. That would grow to about 82 percent under the new regulations.

The park service would also impose a curfew on aircraft, from 6 P.M. to 8 A.M. in summer. The rules take effect on May 1.

The principle behind the new rules was set out in a 1987 federal law that established for the first time that quiet was part of the natural beauty of the parks. The problem is that since then the number of flights over the Grand Canyon has nearly doubled, with an estimated 800,000 people a year taking flights.

150 Trapped in Tunnel In Caucasus Are Freed

The Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia — Rescue workers have now reached all 300 people stranded in a tunnel blocked by an avalanche in the Caucasus Mountains, but some truck drivers remained inside to guard their trucks, officials said Wednesday.

Rescue teams used bulldozers, tractors and armored vehicles to reach the motorists trapped since Thursday in the four-kilometer (2.5-mile) Roksky tunnel that connects Georgia to southern Russia.

The rescue workers cleared a path on the Georgian side, and about 150 people were freed, joining dozens who had been rescued earlier, Russian news agencies reported.

But about 60 people have chosen to stay in the tunnel, the Interfax news agency said. It said most of them were truck drivers fearful that their vehicles and cargo would be stolen if they left their rigs unguarded.

Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations sent a helicopter Wednesday to deliver food and medicine to those still inside, all of whom were reported to be in good condition. The only death there since the avalanche was that of a baby who had been born in the tunnel and died of hypothermia.

The truckers may have a long wait with their vehicles. Nikolai Makoyev, the local minister for emergencies on the Russian side of the border, told the Inter-Tass news agency that continuing avalanches and landslides meant it would be several days before workers could clear the roads enough to allow the trucks to drive out of the tunnel.

TRAVEL UPDATE

For 1997, a U.S. Travel Forecast

NEW YORK (NYT) — Hotel room rates climbing 5 percent — or more. Air fares also up at least 5 percent domestically — and 7 percent on international flights. Car-rental rates up 4 percent to 5 percent. But business travel growth will slip to about 3 percent in 1997, from 4 percent in 1996.

That's what D. K. Shifflet & Associates Ltd., Topaz Enterprises Inc., American Express and other travel experts see for the year. They also spot a changing mix in who's on the road. Women now make up 25 percent of the United States' 45 million corporate travelers, up from 20 percent five years ago.

Because of downsizing, upper-echelon executives are now making many of the business trips formerly assigned to middle managers. With that trend, and because virtually no luxury hotels are being built, luxury hotels are nearly always full.

Seattle and Region Get Drenched

SEATTLE (AP) — The Northwest's third major storm in less than a week brought drenching rain and high winds to the coast, while warming temperatures threatened to bring more flooding from melted snow.

In southern Oregon, gusts of up to 100 miles an hour (160 kilometers an hour) knocked out power to beach towns Wednesday. Along the central Washington coast, gusts of up to 60 miles an hour were reported at Hoquiam Airport. Seattle started Wednesday at 54 degrees (12 degrees centigrade), record warmth for the date.

The debut Thursday of the 2,035-room New York-New York Hotel and Casino will add another showcase to Las Vegas's newly gentrified Strip.

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America
The eastern third of the United States, east of the Mississippi River, will see mostly clear skies with a few clouds over the weekend. Much colder air will push into the northern Plains this weekend, while more snow is expected over the weekend. Rainfall will be light over the weekend. Rainfall will be light over the weekend.

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Albuquerque	54-74	54-74	54-74	54-74
Anchorage	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Atlanta	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Baltimore	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Boston	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Buffalo	34-44	34-44	34-44	34-44
Chicago	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Dallas	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Denver	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Detroit	34-44	34-44	34-44	34-44
El Paso	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Houston	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Los Angeles	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
London	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Madrid	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Miami	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Minneapolis	34-44	34-44	34-44	34-44
Moscow	34-44	34-44	34-44	34-44
New York	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Oakland	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Philadelphia	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Pittsburgh	34-44	34-44	34-44	34-44
Portland	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
San Francisco	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Seattle	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
St. Louis	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Tampa	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Washington	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Wichita	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Algeria	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Amman	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Baghdad	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Bangkok	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Beijing	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Bombay	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Buenos Aires	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Calcutta	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Cairo	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Chongqing	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Columbo	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Dhaka	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Hong Kong	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Jaipur	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Kuala Lumpur	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
London	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Manila	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Moscow	34-44	34-44	34-44	34-44
New Delhi	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Paris	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Rangoon	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Seoul	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Shanghai	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Singapore	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Taipei	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Tokyo	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Yokohama	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Algeria	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Amman	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Baghdad	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Bangkok	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Beijing	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Bombay	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Buenos Aires	54-64	54-64	54-64	54-64
Calcutta	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Cairo	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Chongqing	64-74	64-74	64-74	64-74
Columbo	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Dhaka	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Hong Kong	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Jaipur	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
Kuala Lumpur	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84
London	44-54	44-54	44-54	44-54
Manila	74-84	74-84	74-84	74-84

THE AMERICAS

Ethics Panel to Delay
Gingrich InvestigationMove Is a Blow to Republicans' Hopes
Of a Resolution Before Vote on SpeakerBy Katharine Q. Seelye
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — In an apparent setback for Newt Gingrich, the House of Representatives' ethics committee has said it will not proceed with its two-year-old investigation into ethics complaints against him until Wednesday — one day after the House is to vote on whether to re-elect him as speaker.

The timing puts House Republicans in the awkward position of having to choose a speaker without benefit of a full airing of the charges against their party colleague and without knowing how severe a punishment the committee will impose.

Last month, Mr. Gingrich admitted to violating the House's rules by providing inaccurate information to investigators and failing to seek proper legal advice on using tax-exempt donations for partisan purposes.

The committee meeting Wednesday would set in motion a series of events including open hearings to determine what sanctions, if any, should be applied against Mr. Gingrich.

Possible punishments range from a reprimand to expulsion from the House, which is considered unlikely. The committee set a deadline of Jan. 21, the day after President Bill Clinton is to be inaugurated for his second term, for the full House to conclude all floor action on the matter.

Mr. Gingrich had hoped to have time to appeal publicly to Republicans before their vote. For that reason, House Republicans have scheduled a meeting for Monday, the day before the House is to choose its speaker for the next two years, at which he is expected to answer questions from colleagues.

To shore up support among Republicans who said they did not want to vote until they had all the facts, two Republican members of the ethics panel said that based on their knowledge of the committee's voluminous material, fellow members should have no qualms about retaining Mr. Gingrich as speaker.

"We know of no reason now, nor do we foresee any in the normal course of events in the future, why Newt Gingrich would be ineligible to serve as speaker," Representative Porter Goss of Florida and Representative Steven Schiff of New Mexico wrote in a letter to Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, the Republican whip, who is orchestrating support for the speaker.

They said the committee's rules prevented them from publicly discussing matters before the panel. But, hoping to send a positive signal to their colleagues, they said they would both vote for Mr. Gingrich.

Representative John Linder, a Georgia Republican working on behalf of Mr. Gingrich, said: "We are talking to those who are troubled on a daily basis,

and I believe we're going to be all right. We have to have an opportunity to brief our conference on the exact details before we ask them to vote — you have to tell your members what's going on."

Still, the bipartisan committee's decision to meet later foiled the hopes of the speaker, who had hoped the investigative material would be released before the vote Tuesday and would allay concerns about his candidacy.

Democrats in the House said Tuesday that 18 Republicans had been quoted in local newspapers as expressing discomfort with voting on the matter until they had all the facts. This count did not include Representative Michael Forbes, Republican of New York, who so far is the only Republican to say explicitly that he will not support Mr. Gingrich.

Conservatives are already talking about possible replacements for Mr. Gingrich, with Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois being mentioned the most frequently.

The Constitution does not require the speaker to be a member of the House, prompting Arianna Huffington, a conservative columnist, to suggest that Dick Cheney, a former congressman and defense secretary, be considered as a caretaker speaker. Others have suggested that Robert Michel, a former House speaker, could take over.

The Republicans have a majority of 226 to 207 in the House, meaning that if 20 Republican members abstained from voting for Mr. Gingrich, the election could conceivably go to the Democratic leader, Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri.



Rebels leading Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela inside the residence.

Rejecting Peru's Stance,
Rebel Chief 'in No Rush'
To End Hostage Crisis

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LIMA — Eighty-one diplomats and other hostages being held by leftist rebels in the home of the Japanese ambassador here awoke to a new year Wednesday with little hope for a swift resolution to the 15-day standoff.

Although the rebels released two Latin American diplomats on Tuesday, their leader, Nestor Cerna Carlini, warned that he foresaw no quick end to the hostage ordeal.

In a statement to a group of photojournalists he allowed inside the residence Tuesday, Mr. Cerna said that President Alberto Fujimori's statements "continue to be confrontational" and that "in that framework, I don't see an immediate solution to the problem."

Mr. Cerna described his meeting Saturday with Domingo Palermo, the government's representative, as inconsequential, and repeated the rebels' initial demands for the release of about 400 of his comrades being held in Peruvian jails.

"We have all the time to wait," he said. "We are in no rush." He added that there were no "deadlines or executions" planned.

The leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement used the nearly two-hour meeting with foreign photographers to rebut what he said was a tendency in the national news media to lump members of his group with Maoists of the far more violent Shining Path movement.

Hours after Mr. Cerna met with the journalists, the Honduran ambassador, Jose Martel, and the Argentine consul, Juan Ibanez, were led out of the ambassador's residence by Michel Minig, a mediator and Red Cross representative.

The remaining hostages include the ambassadors of Japan and Bolivia, Peruvian generals in charge of anti-terrorism, the Peruvian foreign minister, and the president's brother, Pedro Fujimori.

Though police monitoring the residence appeared taken aback when 20 or so cameramen overstepped the compound's outer wall to enter the residence, the government's decision to allow photographers to approach the residence after brief negotiations Monday night amounted to an unexplained softening of its earlier stand blocking any contact with the media. In addition, the government restored electricity to the residence Tuesday morning.

The first images from inside the embassy in 12 days showed five of the rebels, some apparently teenagers, with weapons strapped to their bodies. A few had shaved heads and some had their faces covered with scarves bearing the logo of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. They held assault weapons and at least one hoisted a shoulder-held rocket launcher.

The rooms of the residence appeared simultaneously disheveled and bare. Furniture had been stacked against the windows, and tables of medication lined one of the rooms.

Though under obvious stress, the three hostages who spoke to the cameramen appeared calm, clean and in sound health. Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela, who was among them, denied reports, carried in a pro-government newspaper last week, that any had been tortured. But the photographers were blocked from visiting the second floor, where military and security officials were being held.

(AFP, NYT)

POLITICAL NOTES

Raises for Judges Sought

WASHINGTON — In his annual report on the state of the federal judiciary, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, has criticized Congress for failing to raise judges' pay, saying that threatens the morale and quality of the federal judiciary.

At the same time, he praised Congress for placing new limits on state prisoners' access to the federal courts in a 1996 law whose constitutionality the Supreme Court has yet to resolve fully. He cited provisions in the law, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, that restricted access by state prisoners, including those facing execution, to federal court review of their convictions and sentences.

On judicial pay, the chief justice said the federal judiciary was not seeking an increase in base pay, which now ranges from \$133,600 a year for a U.S. district judge to \$171,500 for the chief justice. Associate justices of the Supreme Court earn \$164,100.

Rather, the chief justice's complaint was that federal judges have not received the cost-of-living adjustments that other federal government

employees have received since 1993, the last time Congress raised federal judges' salaries. (NYT)

First Couple's New Year

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina — President Bill Clinton rang in the New Year with a repeat visit to "Renaissance Weekend," an invitation-only gathering of achievers in fields ranging from finance and religion to politics and science. Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary, have attended the gathering at this resort island nearly every New Year's since the early 1980s.

The Clintons started Tuesday on a reflective note by attending a seminar titled "Spiritual Life in a Secular Society." Later they joined all of the 1,500 guests for a New Year's Eve party and midnight singing. (AP)

Expensive House Elections

WASHINGTON — The price tag for congressional elections keeps going up. The Federal Election Commission reported Tuesday that House and Senate candidates in the 1996 election spent \$626.4 million, an increase of \$36.8 million, or 6.3 percent, from the previous high in 1994.

The amount of spending has been on a steady upward climb this decade. The increase last year was fueled by House races, as the Republican Party defended its historic control of the chamber against a furious effort by Democrats to oust the speaker, Newt Gingrich, and his army of Republican freshmen.

House candidates in the fall election spent a total \$405.6 million, up 24 percent from 1994. With their first control of the House in four decades, Republican candidates outspent their Democratic opponents \$217 million to \$186 million. The rest was raised by independents. (AP)

Threats Scare Off Doctors

LOS ANGELES — Doctors in California and Arizona who supported ballot initiatives for the medical use of marijuana as a painkiller now say they will refuse to recommend the drug for fear of jeopardizing their livelihood.

The Clinton administration's warning of possible sanctions against doctors who use the new state laws to make marijuana available to patients is having a chilling effect. Doctors are worried about the potential consequences of losing federal licenses to write prescriptions and being excluded

from the Medicare and Medicaid health programs for the elderly and poor or federal contracts or grants, supporters of the initiatives say.

"There's no way I can recommend it now without risking my livelihood," said Richard Cohen, a San Francisco oncologist who backed the California measure. "It's a threat to my license to write prescriptions, and if I can't write prescriptions, I'm out of business."

Federal officials, saying the state laws threaten their efforts to combat drug abuse, have announced plans to send letters to doctors warning that recommending marijuana as medicine is still a violation of federal drug laws. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Franklin Zimring, director of the Earl Warren Legal Institute at the University of California at Berkeley, on the sharp drop in homicides in major American cities in 1996: "The general downward pattern in big city homicide is good news for the whole country because so much of our lethal violence is concentrated in the cities, but it is not good news that we cannot confidently explain and it is not good news that was widely predicted by the experts." (WP)

Colombia Arrests Hostage Negotiators, Causing Tension With Germany

By Diana Jean Schemo
New York Times Service

BOGOTA — The arrest of a German couple at the airport in Bogota after they secured the release of a woman kidnapped by leftist guerrillas has provoked diplomatic tensions between Colombia and Germany. The incident also raises questions about the role of foreigners in financing Colombia's guerrillas.

The Colombian government says that the man, Werner Mauss, funneled millions of dollars in ransom to guerrillas who kidnap foreigners and threaten foreign interests.

Prosecutors contend that the Mausses were involved not only in paying the ransom, but also in targeting foreign victims for kidnapping.

In Colombia, Mr. Mauss is being called Agent 008, and the case against him is nicknamed Case 16,000, presumably twice as scandalous as Case 8,000, the campaign financing scandal that nearly brought down President Ernesto Samper in 1996.

Mr. Mauss and his wife, Michaela, were arrested in November trying to leave the country with Brigitte Schoene, who was kidnapped Aug. 15 from her home on the outskirts

of Medellin by leftist guerrillas of the National Liberation Army. Mrs. Schoene's husband, Ulrich, is the former president of the Colombian subsidiary of BASF Chemicals, a German company.

The Mausses have been charged with use of false documents, conspiracy to kidnap and aggravated extortionary kidnapping. They face a maximum sentence of 40 years.

Through his attorney, Abraham Casallas, Mr. Mauss denied paying the guerrillas for Mrs. Schoene's release and contended that he was acting for humanitarian reasons. He also denied any in-

volvement in kidnappings.

Well-known as a kind of back-door fixer even before his arrest, he has been called the man of nine fingers — a reference to the missing tip of his index finger — with twice that many aliases.

On a recent trip to liberate three engineers kidnapped by the same guerrilla group, he took along a German television crew. Much to the consternation of Colombian officials, the film appeared to show the 56-year-old Mauss and his wife in chummy terms with the kidnappers.

According to the Schoenes in an interview in the news

magazine Semana, Mr. Mauss boasted of his close relations with Mrs. Schoene's kidnappers, and put pressure on Mr. Schoene to dismiss the English company that had been working with the police to negotiate his wife's release.

The case blossomed into a political issue because Mr. Mauss had high-level political connections in Germany and Colombia. Bernd Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's most senior intelligence aide, said he sent Mr. Mauss to Colombia in the Schoene case for humanitarian reasons.

It was the acting German

ambassador who introduced Mr. Mauss to Ulrich Schoene and urged Mr. Schoene to use Mr. Mauss to negotiate with the kidnappers. Once Mr. Mauss got the job, the embassy supplied him with six passports in false names and an open letter vouching for him and his wife.

Under questioning in the German Parliament after the arrests, Mr. Schmidbauer said: "Half of the territory in Colombia is dominated by guerrillas, and the cases of kidnappings run into the thousands. When we call upon unconventional methods, it's because we're not

dealing with decent people, but with delinquents of the worst kind."

Colombian prosecutors contend that Mr. Mauss was a mercenary who profited handsomely from kidnappings. Mr. Schoene, who with the English company Control Risk, had negotiated his wife's ransom down to \$150,000, from \$2 million, said he then watched the ransom climb back to \$1.5 million with Mr. Mauss's involvement. The police contend that Mr. Mauss kept roughly 25 percent for himself.

When somebody who has been "financing subversion and corruption is presented officially as a humanitarian agent, you have to wonder about the double standard of the German government."

In an interview with a European magazine, the guerrilla leader, a clergyman named Manuel Perez, confirmed the account of these payments, and added that Mannesmann had been made to "invest \$2 million in social programs."

Mannesmann has denied making such a payment.

Away From
Politics

• Major cities across the nation reported sharply fewer homicides in 1996, hitting 30-year lows in some cases and driving an overall drop in violent crime that began five years ago and now appears to be accelerating, according to a survey of large city police departments conducted by The Washington Post. (WP)

• Labels that list how much fat, calories and other nutrients are contained in packaged foods are generally accurate, aside from a few exceptions, a survey by the Food and Drug Administration says. (WP)

• A man was arrested after two visitors to a resort hotel in South Carolina discovered a note threatening President Bill Clinton, who was vacationing nearby. A spokesman for the Secret Service identified the man as Marcus Burrison, and said Mr. Clinton was never in any danger. (AP)

Kohl Intelligence Aide Comes Under Scrutiny

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

BONN — The arrest of a freelance German operative in Colombia has raised questions about the personality and style of the man who allegedly sent him there: Bernd Schmidbauer, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's senior intelligence aide.

Mr. Schmidbauer is entrusted with coordinating the activities of Germany's intelligence agencies and keeping the chancellor apprised of what he thinks Mr. Kohl needs to know.

The operative in Colombia, Werner Mauss, was arrested in November, along with his wife, for talking with guerrillas to free a German hostage being held for ransom. The discovery of the operation infuriated the Colombian authorities, who have tried to strangle the flow of ransom to guerrillas.

"We will have more cases where German citizens are taken hostage," Mr. Schmidbauer said.

"We are obliged in those emergency circumstances to help. I am grateful to all who have helped me. That applies especially to Mauss, who has helped us on many occasions to rescue German hostages from Colombia."

As a member of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union with ministerial rank, Mr. Schmidbauer belongs to a coterie of advisers who operate close to Mr. Kohl.

He maintains largely unchronicled links with an array of shadowy figures, including the heads of Israeli and Iranian intelligence. German officials contend that these contacts provide unique opportunities for him to intercede where other Westerners cannot.

The operation in Colombia thrust Mr. Schmidbauer into a limelight he has claimed before in more positive settings — such as an exchange of prisoners between Israel and Lebanon last July, which he said he was able to mastermind because

of high-level contacts in Iran.

Still, Mr. Schmidbauer has his critics. A former director of Germany's intelligence service has questioned Mr. Schmidbauer's use of a freelance agent to conduct what he termed "this delicate mission."

Other people have questioned how exactly Mr. Schmidbauer's job is defined and whether the role is properly served by such a high-profile figure.

People in his position, said Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, a former government troubleshooter from the opposition Social Democrats, should "remain discreetly in the background."

Mr. Schmidbauer seems able to rely on an unwritten convention that, in matters involving German lives, the country's spy masters should be given some leeway.

Even Mr. Wischniewski acknowledged that "in such situations, you cannot always avoid breaking the law."

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INTERNATIONAL

A Bizarre Parting as Boutros Ghali Ends His Term at the UN

By Barbara Crossette
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — A couple of weeks ago, after Madeleine Albright had ended Boutros Boutros Ghali's hopes of a second term as secretary-general of the United Nations, the defeated and dispirited Egyptian diplomat finally got his chance to ask Mrs. Albright, by then President Bill Clinton's choice as secretary of state, a few undiplomatic questions.

"What went wrong?" he asked over a private farewell dinner at his official residence. "Why this campaign against me for six months?" Mr. Boutros Ghali might as well have called the State Department spokesman.

"She gave me the official interpretation," he recalled in an interview a few hours before he walked out of the United Nations as secretary-general for the last time and into a New York drizzle as frosty as his relations with the White House.

Adding a bizarre touch to the evening, Mrs. Albright brushed aside Mr. Boutros Ghali's pleas for an explanation and chose the occasion to seek a favor instead.

"She asked me to help her in relations with the Arabs," said Mr. Boutros Ghali, a pivotal figure in negotiating the 1979 Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel. "She made the point that she knew because she was against my re-election the Arab world was not happy."

Mrs. Albright is now preparing for Senate hearings over confirming her as secretary of state, after four years as the U.S. delegate to the United Nations. Since the Middle East will probably be a

major and continuing concern of a new secretary of state, her triumphant campaign to remove Mr. Boutros Ghali may have some unintended consequences in the Senate and, if she is approved as expected, in her new post.

A senior administration official confirmed Mr. Boutros Ghali's account of the conversation, saying that Mrs. Albright only wanted to "tap into his knowledge of the players in the Middle East."

Mr. Boutros Ghali said that he had answered her questions about the Middle East "like a good Boy Scout,"

At a farewell dinner, Mr. Boutros Ghali asked Mrs. Albright: 'Why this campaign against me?' Instead of a reply, 'She asked me to help her in relations with the Arabs.'

but that he would not be much help in the immediate future. He was leaving for Paris on Wednesday as Kofi Annan of Ghana takes over as his successor.

After relaxing at a European spa, he said, he will take off six months to reflect on his five years at the United Nations, dividing his time between his homes in Paris and Cairo. At the same time, he expects to write. His memoirs of the Middle East during the years of President Anwar Sadat will be published by Random House in April.

Clinton administration officials have long insisted that their decision to deny Mr. Boutros Ghali a second term stemmed from policy differences, not personal animosity. But now that the battle is over, it is clear that the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat perceived the

campaign as a personal assault on his record, his integrity and his pride.

"There were two questions I asked," he said, recalling his last conversation with Mrs. Albright. "One was why they made this decision. Then, after they made it, why this general war on me? They could have used the veto without necessarily doing what they have done."

He said that for six months administration officials ordered U.S. embassies around the world to drum up opposition to his candidacy while warning UN officials not to campaign on his behalf.

he said he felt a noticeable shift in his relations with the Clinton administration about two years ago, after the Republican sweep of Congress. Until then, he said, relations with Mrs. Albright and the White House were excellent, despite occasional spats.

He remains convinced that he was sacrificed for domestic political gain. He said Tuesday that when he asked Mrs. Albright to explain, he was given the public version: that he had asked initially for only one term and that was all that Washington was prepared to accept.

Officials have also said that he was a very reluctant reformer and that his presence was impeding efforts to get Congress to pay the \$1.2 billion debt that the United States owes the United Nations.

In a ruminative "Agenda for Democracy" that Mr. Boutros Ghali has written in the form of a parting letter to the General Assembly, he said the nations of the world, not only the people, need to be democratic. The reference was to the United States and other countries with the power to ignore the view of the majority of nations.



Boutros Boutros Ghali leaving the United Nations in New York on his last day as secretary-general. Kofi Annan assumed the post Wednesday.

HEBRON: Israeli Wounds 6

Continued from Page 1

the sharp mutual distrust of the two leaders. Tensions subsided soon after Wednesday's shooting and by evening, the Israeli defense minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, met at the U.S. ambassador's residence with Mr. Arafat's top aides, Mahmoud Abbas and Yasser Abed Rabbo, and with the U.S. special envoy, Dennis Ross, to guarantee that the Hebron agreement would be concluded.

Israeli officials said Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat would probably meet Thursday to resolve final points of contention and initial the long-delayed agreement. It would then go to the Israeli cabinet and Parliament for approval, meaning that the actual redeployment of Israeli troops could take place next week.

The latest crisis began Wednesday morning when the off-duty soldier, identified as Noam Friedman, 22, walked into the main square of the ancient center of Hebron — a place of recurring tensions where the cluster of Jewish settlements about a crowded Palestinian vegetable market — and opened fire with an M-16 automatic rifle into the market.

Witnesses said he fired one burst, sat down and fired another. In seconds, Israeli soldiers, who are normally stationed in large numbers in the square, pounced on Mr. Friedman, threw him to the ground and disarmed him. As he went down, the gangly soldier yelled, "Don't shoot me!"

Chaos ensued, with most Palestinians trying to escape from the market and others trying to charge the gunman, while Israeli soldiers rushed to take cover, some firing their weapons and others charging into the market. Several more Palestinians were hurt in this period.

Order was soon restored and Israeli medics rushed to administer first aid to the wounded until ambulances arrived. A brief riot broke out outside the hospital where the wounded were taken.

Israeli authorities ordered all Palestinians in Hebron to stay indoors, entrance to the city was closed and senior officials, including Mr. Mordechai and the army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahak, arrived to calm soldiers, settlers and Palestinians.

The head of the Israeli security service, Ami Ayalon, arrived and met publicly in the main square with the Palestinian chief for the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub.

As information began to accumulate about Mr. Friedman, it became apparent that he was a lonely and troubled person who was expelled from a religious institute because of strange behavior and whose enlistment was postponed because of psychological problems. All indications were that he acted alone.

Wearing a black skullcap and the exposed shirt-straps of an Orthodox Jew, Mr. Friedman was doing his mandatory military service in an administrative unit nowhere near Hebron.

He told investigators that he decided to create an incident to block the agreement on Hebron.

On being led to the police van for transfer to Jerusalem, he repeated again and again, "Hebron now and forever" — the slogan of the Jewish settlers in Hebron.

"Are you a normal person?" shouted an Israeli reporter.

"Completely normal," he replied.

"One who kills innocent people is normal?"

"They aren't innocents," said Mr. Friedman. "They are haters of Israel."

Citing the Bible

"Abraham bought the Cave of the Patriarchs for 400 shekels of silver. No one will return it," Mr. Friedman told Israel's Channel 7 television, Reuters reported from Hebron.

The Bible says that in Hebron some 4,000 years ago, Abraham, father of the Jews, paid 400 shekels for a cave in which to bury his wife, Sarah.

Mr. Friedman also told Israel's Channel 7 television that he did not regret the attack. "Hebron is ours now and forever," he insisted.

PARTNERS: Clinton's Stance on Human Rights Seen as a Challenge for U.S. Relations With Some in East Asia

Continued from Page 1

friendship" it has with non-Communist countries in Southeast Asia as well as strain relations with China and Vietnam.

Charles Morrison, a specialist on Asia at the East-West Center in Hawaii, said that while U.S. policies toward the region should reflect American national interests, they must also be consistent with Asian trends and realities.

"Too often we have taken a position, pushed a cause, or tried to establish a linkage, for example between human rights and trade treatment, because of its political appeal at home, irrespective of its chance for success or even consistency with widely established international practice," he said.

All the states excluded from Mr. Clinton's East Asian "democracy" list

when he spoke in Bangkok on Nov. 26 have made it clear that they will fight hard to preserve systems of government based on the dominance of one political party or a coalition of parties, or in the case of Brunei, rule by the same family that has been in power for 600 years.

Singapore's governing party, which had to contend with only four opposition members in the last legislature of 81 seats, is pulling out all stops to reduce that number further in parliamentary elections Thursday.

"Do you think we could have done even half of what was achieved in the last 30 years if we had a multiparty system and a revolving-door government?" Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore said shortly before calling the elections. "Do you think we could have

done just as well if we had a government that was constantly being held in check by 10 to 20 opposition members?"

Government leaders of all the countries excluded from Mr. Clinton's democracy list assert that political stability is essential for rapid economic growth and national unity.

A front-page editorial in Wednesday's People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, said that maintaining social and political stability was a key priority for 1997.

Speaking Tuesday at the end of a year that has seen unrest in Indonesia, President Suharto said that it was not easy to maintain national stability in a country with many ethnic, religious and linguistic groups in a population of 190 million spread over 13,000 islands.

"A complex society can be vulner-

able to unrest if not handled carefully," said Mr. Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia with military backing since 1965. "We must prevent repetitions of the unrest experienced this year."

Officials said that to deter possible violence, street rallies and convoys allowed in previous political campaigns in Indonesia would be banned in elections next May for municipal and regional legislatures and Parliament.

China's Communist Party seized power in 1949. The Communists in Vietnam and Laos have been in power for almost as long, although they did not control the whole of their respective countries until 1975. Burma's armed forces have run the government for almost the whole of the period since the end of World War II. Malaysia's ruling coalition has controlled the federal government in Ku-

ala Lumpur since 1957, while the governing People's Action Party in Singapore came to office in 1959.

The latest annual report on human rights observance for 1996 compiled by the U.S. State Department said that the monopoly of political power in China, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Brunei, and the "strongly authoritarian" system in place in Indonesia denied people in those countries the basic right to change their government.

While both Singapore and Malaysia have an established system of parliamentary elections, the State Department report said that both governments imposed restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, speech and the press that made it very difficult for opposition parties to compete on equal terms with the government.

MEXICO: Latin America's Poor Still Thirsty for Trickle-Down Wealth From Global Trade

Continued from Page 1

agencies, argue that the new wealth created by free trade and investment is not trickling down to the poor majority in many countries, that it is encouraging the exploitation of poor workers and children, and that many countries are being excluded from the process.

Nowhere are these voices louder than in Latin America, where countries have embraced the model of free markets and trade in the last 10 years. Unlike the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, many Latin American countries, including Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Argentina, have succeeded in attracting substantial foreign investment and in bolstering trade. Still, although the hyperinflation and declining incomes that plagued the region in the 1980s have been arrested, the success of the changes in raising living standards has been mixed.

Indeed, while the opening of the world's markets has reduced the percentage of people living below the poverty line worldwide in the 1990s, the percentage of poor has grown throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Nearly one-quarter of the population, more than 110 million people, live on less than \$1 a day, according to the World Bank.

To be sure, there are exceptions. Chile, which began opening its markets a decade before most nations in the region, now has a robust economy and a declining rate of poverty — despite having experienced a crash even more severe than Mexico's in the early 1980s.

So far, though, few other Latin American nations have been able to grow fast enough even to keep up with their rising populations. Meanwhile, a backlash against free market moves was manifested this year in the election of a populist president in Ecuador, mass strikes in Argentina and, more ominously, the rebound of leftist guerrilla movements in Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

The biggest problems continue to be in Mexico. Critics of globalization say that Mexico shows what can go wrong when a developing nation tries to enter the global marketplace without economic or social policies tailored to handle the pressures created by a huge influx of capital.

Billions of dollars in capital flowed into Mexico during the last 10 years as the government privatized state-owned industries, offered tax incentives to manufacturers producing goods for export, and deregulated banks and financial markets. But Mexico, like many of its Latin American neighbors, has two al-

most separate economies, divided by geography, technology and by ethnicity — and only one of them has benefited from the new money.

The country's prosperous northern cities, which received much of the investment in new factories, produced modern high-rise buildings, a new up-middle class whose members sip wine at fancy restaurants and industrial parks that churn out televisions, designer jeans and electronics.

But Mexico's remote southern villages, populated primarily by indigenous people, received little investment. In much of the southern part of the country, the norm remains unpaved roads, dilapidated schools where teachers often do not show up for class, and illiteracy rates more than four times the national average. At least one of every three households lacks running water.

Economic mismanagement has greatly compounded the problems caused by a skewed flow of wealth. Throughout 1994, as it was preparing to inaugurate the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada, the Mexican government, then led by President Carlos Salinas, fixed the exchange rate of the Mexican peso to the dollar at a level far too high to sustain. The result was the sudden col-

lapse of the currency in December 1994, after Mr. Salinas left office, which in turn caused nervous foreign investors to pull billions out of the country.

Following a U.S. Treasury-led bailout and two years of painful recession, Mexico's economy is now officially expanding again, and foreign investment is once again flowing in. But critics say the money still benefits only the country's elite. A study by the National Autonomous University earlier this year reported that 50 percent of all Mexicans were considered "extremely poor," up from 31 percent in 1993.

A recent World Bank report concluded that a major contribution to the growing poverty in Latin America is the increasing income gap between rich and poor, a disparity worsened by the flow of investment capital to already prosperous sectors and people. Income distribution in Latin America, the bank said, "approaches the most unequal in the developing world."

"A lot of countries have focused so much on growth in the aggregate that they have allowed inequality, and even poverty to grow," said James Gustave Speth, administrator of the United Nations Development Program. "There is no correlation between foreign investment and need."

Pope Appeals For World Peace

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Saying that forgiveness is essential to lasting peace, Pope John Paul II used New Year's Day to urge everyone from warriors to world leaders to put their disputes to rest.

"Peace and forgiveness go together as an inseparable pair," the Pope said Wednesday during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Later in his New Year's message in St. Peter's Square, the pontiff acknowledged the difficulties in ignoring past disputes, but insisted "each vendetta and each act of violence" leads to another.

His statements elaborated on a message he issued earlier this month in preparation for World Peace Day, which the Roman Catholic Church marks on the first day of the year.

In his Peace Day text, the Pope wrote that "one cannot remain a prisoner of the past." He added that "individuals and peoples need a sort of healing of memories so that past evils will not come back again."

AFRICA: Investor Interest and the Boon of Globalization Skip Sub-Saharan Countries With Their Flaws in Politics and Infrastructure

Continued from Page 1

have been left behind" in the global economy, said Lucia Quechey, who heads the Ghanaian Association of Women Entrepreneurs. "It's that we haven't even started."

About 40 percent of Africa's people live on less than \$1 a day. From 1989 to 1992, nearly half of the continent's countries suffered negative economic growth rates. Only in the last two years have there been signs of an upturn as such countries as Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda pursue free-market policies; regional growth may have reached 5 percent last year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Still, in the last 20 years, per-capita income has crawled upward by roughly \$70 in Africa, compared with a \$900 jump in East Asia. While trade between developing countries in East Asia and Latin America and the rest of the world has boomed in the last decade, African countries are still struggling to find markets for products from pineapples to finished goods. And foreign investors, who have poured more than \$400 billion into the Third World since 1988, have largely shunned Africa.

The continent receives roughly 3 percent of the foreign direct investment flowing into developing countries. And that share could fall further: The United Nations reports that foreign investment in the continent plunged by 27 percent in 1995 to \$2.1 billion — less than China received in two months. Only South Africa, with its new democratic government, trained work force and rich resources, is drawing substantial investments from multinational companies.

Western and Asian business leaders say Africa lacks the infrastructure and stability to sustain investments in the low-wage manufacturing plants that are the basic building block of foreign investment. And they say most African countries do not have the consumer buying power that would justify local production of televisions and microwave ovens.

"With Africa," says John Koo, president and chief executive officer of LG Electronics, the Korean giant, "we have a problem making investment decisions and we don't have a solution at the moment."

The region's investment predicament is compounded by a slackening of traditional aid to developing countries by international organizations and rich countries. Total official aid to sub-Saharan Africa fell from almost \$17 billion in 1990 to \$15 billion in 1994.

"We see certain countries going through budgetary difficulties that want to back away from offering development aid," said Henri Konan Bedie, the president of Ivory Coast. "They say everything ought to be referred to the private sector. If you wait until the private sector comes to build primary schools for children, I think you could wait a long time."

The continent's lack of preparedness for the new model of global economic growth is linked to a history pocked with wars, coups and counter-coups. Since the late 1950s, 25 African countries have undergone at least one violent government change, with some countries' entrenched coups as political ritual. Nigeria, the region's most populous nation and potentially its most economically powerful, is stumbling through the consequences of repeated coups since independence in 1963.

Meanwhile, many longtime dictators and strongmen have held their economies hostage, maintaining unprofitable state-owned enterprises, keeping high tariffs and price controls and explicitly supporting corruption. And even those few countries, like Ghana, that have avoided war and political chaos and tried to open their economies to the new flows of world capital have been crippled by a lack of domestic investment, inconsistent policies and corruption.

Africa's economies will be crippled "as long as you have these mafia governments, these

predatory states," said George Ayitteh, a Ghanaian who teaches economics at American University in Washington. "In Nigeria, in Zaire, all over the continent, the people in government are just looters."

Ghana offers a case study of how the region has fared. At independence in 1957, it boasted one of sub-Saharan Africa's most promising economies, leading the world in cocoa production and holding an extraordinary range of natural resources, including gold, diamonds, oil, aluminum, timber, bauxite, rubber and cotton. By the 1960s, its per-capita income matched that of Malaysia and South Korea.

But the Black Star, as Ghana was nicknamed, plummeted as five coups rocked the country from 1966 to 1981. By the early 1980s, more than 1

The great engines of growth — trade and foreign investment — never started turning in Africa.

million Ghanaians had fled to neighboring West African states. Shops were virtually empty, infrastructure deteriorated, inflation zoomed to 123 percent.

After the 1981 coup, the new leader, Jerry Rawlings, embraced recommendations by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that helped resurrect the economy. By the early 1990s, a 5 percent growth rate had become a constant. Inflation dropped to 10 percent.

Ghana, with 17.5 million people, also began an ambitious effort to draw foreign investors, loosening its onerous investment code and offering incentives to outside entrepreneurs. It established export processing zones. Having embraced the formula that has brought wealth to countries from the Philippines to Chile, Ghanaians waited for their own economic takeoff; the country was touted as one of the best prepared in Africa for foreign investment.

But the campaign for foreign capital has

founded, except in the mining sector. Critical areas such as agriculture and manufacturing, both with the potential to produce large numbers of jobs, have attracted relatively little investment.

Overall, foreign investment has only 4 percent of Ghana's gross domestic product. A government campaign to encourage the export of nontraditional products — such as pineapples — also has largely failed. Export of Ghana's pineapples, among the sweetest in the world, lags behind that of Latin American competitors. In 1994, Costa Rica exported \$45 million worth of the fruit. Ghana exported \$5 million worth.

Potential agricultural investors, like foreign investors generally, often are dissuaded by the country's unreliable infrastructure, especially in rural areas, many of which do not have telephones, electricity or water and whose roads often are impassable.

The rocky dirt roads to Afari's pineapple farm are riddled with foot-deep holes, divots, dips, mounds and widening puddles. Bad roads can mean damaged fruit, delayed orders and astronomical repair costs for Mr. Afari's aging tractor.

There are 3.5 phones for every 1,000 Ghanaians. Sub-Saharan Africa averages 4 phones for every 1,000 people, compared with 4 per 100 in Asia and 6 per 100 in Latin America. The entire region has fewer phones than does New York City. Domestic long-distance telephone calls often do not connect, and international calls can be nearly impossible. Electricity is sporadic, even in parts of the capital.

Outside investment has thus barely helped to dent this nation's overwhelming poverty. Fishermen toss their nets into coastal waters, hoping that day's catch will feed their children. Tiny factories — with names like Hallelujah Construction Bricks — dominate its towns. Subsistence farmers hawk fruits and vegetables on

rickety tables along the rural roadside. Ghana's people make about \$430 a year, approximately the same as 30 years ago. Unemployment exceeds 25 percent in urban areas.

The government repeatedly has said it would like Ghana to become a middle-income nation by the year 2020. The World Bank estimates that, at this rate, Ghana will not reach its target until 2045.

A tour of the Ghanaian countryside shows clearly one large reason that world capital flows have bypassed this country. Before foreigners can be drawn to invest, governments must make basic investments in infrastructure, such as roads and electricity, and in people, through health and education.

But Ghana has not made those investments in places such as Asene, 144 kilometers (90 miles) north of Accra.

Asene, with about 1,000 residents, is blessed with some of Ghana's richest soil and is among its leading producers of cocoa. A plethora of goods available at the market attests to Asene's rich agricultural potential: peppers, pineapples, tomatoes, rice, soy beans, groundnuts, cassava, plantains, palm oil, soy oil.

Nana Ako Primpang II, the village chief, desperately wants investment in Asene. "The government has been telling people to invest in rural areas, but people have not come," he said.

Investment in Asene would allow villagers to finish the health clinic they have labored to build for five years. The current facility is a cramped, one-room building used only as a maternity clinic. Today, a pile of sand and stones sits before the clinic-in-progress.

Investment also would mean that Asene residents could repair and rebuild some local schools. Asene's residents must build their own clinics and schools because, at least in such remote areas, Ghana's government does not.

NEXT: China's growing inequality. As the economy takes off, millions are left behind.

EUROPE

Kohl and Chirac Make Similar Calls to Sacrifice

2 Nations Told They Must Change Ways

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — Sounding remarkably alike in televised New Year's addresses, the leaders of France and Germany have urged their respective voters to keep making sacrifices so their countries can meet increasingly tough global economic competition against Europe's welfare-state economies.

"We run up debts and deficits, and our country little by little lost its economic rank in the world," President Jacques Chirac of France told his compatriots, whose innate conservatism he had blamed only a few weeks ago for his failure so far to make much headway in whittling down the government benefits that run up the debts.

"We have to adapt France to its times, which means thinking and acting differently."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, who has consulted often with Mr. Chirac in recent weeks, had much the same message for his country Tuesday night.

"International competition has become much tougher," he warned. "We can maintain our position if we undertake the necessary changes."

But, he added, "We Germans cannot just keep doing as we have always done."

Mr. Kohl was able, at least, to ram most of a \$33 billion government spending cut package through Parliament last year. But he was unsuccessful at weaning German workers from generous sick pay benefits that their employers wanted to cut as a way of increasing productivity to face up to foreign competition.

While jobs have wandered away to cheaper labor markets in Central Europe and East Asia, economists say, German unemployment has climbed to 10.7 percent. Swollen by unemployment payments, Germany's budget deficit is above the limit of 3 percent of gross national product required for participants in the single European currency outlined in the Treaty on European Union that was negotiated at Maastricht five years ago.

Mr. Kohl, one of the architects of that treaty, has insisted that Germany will meet the criteria in 1997, and he looks increasingly likely to run again for the chancellorship in 1998 to make sure it does.

But as difficult as things were for Mr. Kohl in 1996, they were even worse for

Mr. Chirac, who will be president until 2002. He sounded as if he meant it Tuesday night when he said, "I know that 1996 was a difficult year for many of you."

Although nearly 150,000 more people are unemployed in France than a year ago, 12.7 percent of the labor force, the government was not able in the past year to make a significant dent in the high employer-paid benefits that Mr. Chirac blames for discouraging French companies from hiring new workers.

When Prime Minister Alain Juppe tried to do that more than a year ago, a nationwide rail and public transport strike backed off from plans to tighten generous government pension rules that allow locomotive engineers, for example, to retire as early as 50.

Truck drivers struck this fall for the right to reduce retirement age from 60 to 55 and got it, after the government agreed to help employers pay their pensions.

Mr. Chirac promised that income tax reductions on individuals would come in 1997, when French economists warn that unemployment will continue to rise unless the economy grows. Mr. Kohl also promised that taxes would go down in Germany.

Although the leaders of the European Union said five years ago that they expected to achieve a common European currency by the end of this year, neither European leader Tuesday mentioned the common currency or that goal, in whose name they have asked their people to sacrifice.

Recession, the costs of chronic high unemployment and second thoughts about the common currency project in many European countries have pushed the date for it off to 1999 at the earliest.

In Germany, the strong Deutsche mark is synonymous with post-World War II prosperity, and Mr. Kohl did not even mention the euro, as the common currency will be called.

Mr. Chirac, with both the French and the EU flag beside him in his office in the Elysee Palace, depicted France's destiny as linked with Europe, if it had the courage to stick with the economic policies that have made him and his government more unpopular than any in the Fifth Republic before them.

"What I want is for France to profit from this time of transition and ensure its future, while remaining true to itself," Mr. Chirac said, and wished a happy new year to all.



Opposition supporters waving sparklers as they celebrated New Year's Eve in Belgrade.

Belgrade Rings In the New Year

Protesters Use New Weapon Against State TV: Noise

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELGRADE — About 10,000 students marched through Belgrade on Wednesday evening, blowing whistles and banging pots, pans and drums in continuing protests of the annulment of opposition victories in November's local elections.

At least a quarter of a million people had greeted the New Year in the city center in an earlier rally that featured ringing alarm clocks as a rebuff to President Slobodan Milosevic.

The students' march was symbolically timed to drown out the evening newscast on state television, which is accused by the opposition of biased coverage of the daily demonstrations of the past six weeks.

For the first time in seven days, the police allowed the protesters to march through the capital. After a ban was imposed last week, the protests had been confined to a pedestrian zone. On Wednesday night, only a few plainclothes policemen monitored the crowd.

As news spread that the police were not blocking the march, more students and opposition supporters joined the crowd.

"We want to save people from listening to state news," said Rastko Seic, a Belgrade University student.

"This is the final rehearsal for the biggest

drum performance, which we are planning for one of these days."

At 7:30, when state television's main newscast started, Belgrade residents opened their apartment windows and blew whistles, banged on walls and threw fire crackers. The marchers wended through the streets to the television building.

After turning out their largest crowd so far for the New Year protest, the opposition Zajedno coalition has scheduled another demonstration for Thursday.

Mr. Milosevic ended 1996 still ignoring the protests and telling federal Yugoslavia in his New Year's message that it had been a good year.

Western sources said Mr. Milosevic and Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic also snubbed a group of European Union diplomats, who tried on Tuesday to hand-deliver a message urging democratic changes in Serbia.

A report by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe recommends that Mr. Milosevic acknowledge the Zajedno victories and initiate broader democratic reforms.

But diplomats in Belgrade also said the government was trying hard to postpone the decision as long as possible. "We are now being told to expect a response sometime next week," a Belgrade-based diplomat said.

(Reuters, AP)

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Havel Reflects on Death

PRAGUE — President Vaclav Havel said Wednesday that he felt more deeply about the world after facing the possibility of death when he underwent major surgery to remove a cancerous lung tumor a month ago.

In a New Year's address on national television, speaking publicly for the first time since the Dec. 2 operation, Mr. Havel reflected on his illness and the loss of his wife, Olga, to cancer last January. The former playwright, looking thinner, said both events had caused him great suffering and made him feel the world was unjust.

"But on the other hand, both of these experiences, to my own surprise, I have perceived as great challenges for a new and far deeper consideration of the world in which we live," he said. He also discussed domestic politics, criticizing "disgusting political skirmishes," "mysterious bank collapses," and "property speculation and outright theft."

(Reuters)

IRA Opens 1997 With Scare

BELFAST — The Irish Republican Army opened the New Year with a bomb scare at a hotel packed with revelers in Northern Ireland, bringing immediate condemnation from the British government.

In a telephone warning late Tuesday night, the nationalist guerrillas said a van left at the hotel contained a land mine. Bomb disposal experts rushed to the vehicle, and hotel guests were evacuated. By Wednesday afternoon, it was still not clear whether the van contained a bomb.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, on Wednesday called the threat "a New Year message" from what he called criminal gangsters. He added: "I reject that message with disgust and contempt on behalf of the government and all the decent people of Northern Ireland."

(Reuters)

Austrian Chief Calls for Calm

VIENNA — Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said in his New Year's address Wednesday that 1997 should be a year without new elections, and appealed for calm in the country's troubled center-left government coalition.

"The year that has just started should be one without nationwide elections," he said in a televised speech.

His comments came in the midst of an increasingly acrimonious fight over the possible sale of Creditanstalt-Bankverein, which has put a strain on the coalition of Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats and their junior partner, the conservative People's Party.

(Reuters)

Greenland Sees a Rosy Future

NUUK, Greenland — Greenland's future lies in its political independence, the head of the government, Lars Emil Johansen, said Wednesday in a New Year's speech here.

Greenland is an autonomous territory of Denmark, but remains dependent on the Scandinavian kingdom.

Mr. Johansen said: "A united people's independence can be conquered only thanks to its economic independence," and he noted that Greenland "receives, every year, total aid of 2.5 billion Danish kroner" — \$454 million — "which represents its biggest source of income." He said he was satisfied that "Greenland, with a well-organized economic system, has made a good start on the search for and discovery of mining deposits" and oil.

(AFP)

FRANCE: European Allies Wonder About Chirac's Policy as Disagreements With U.S. Continue

Continued from Page 1

official said, because "it keeps the U.S. guarantee while we see what develops in Russia and how Europeans adjust to the idea of growing German authority."

His concerns were echoed by other European officials, especially the fear that French tactics were liable eventually to alienate Washington at a critical juncture when the European Union is trying to clear the final hurdles toward a single currency, a more united international role and new membership.

The Clinton foreign policy team is "better disposed toward stronger unity, a larger role and more authority for Europe than any U.S. administration we've ever seen," said an official in the Netherlands, which now holds the EU presidency.

Considering French motives, a British official said that Paris seemed to be practicing "Gaullism without a goal" — meaning that the anti-American notes in Paris amounted to little more than attitudes, not a real political rivalry of the sort that General De Gaulle incarnated for the French.

Significantly, there is little

public resonance inside France arising from official swipes at U.S. policies, with the exception of Mr. Chirac's public allegation — in English — with Israeli police in Jerusalem. That incident won him a moment of approval among many French voters.

But his tendency to shoot from the hip, whether publicly berating leaders from Denmark and Italy or making demands about NATO's command structure, increasingly draws reproaches in the French media.

Defending their more aggressive recent diplomacy, French officials insist that Mr. Chirac must counter domestic criticism that he obtained too few concessions in exchange for his decision to rejoin NATO.

There is little public evidence of that, at least judged by the absence of public debate or media questioning about Mr. Chirac's bold decision last year to abandon Gaullist isolation.

Instead, Mr. Chirac, in lurching back toward a separate French geopolitical role, seems to be catering to a handful of political leaders — perhaps best described as leftwing Gaullists with anti-American reflexes — and to

business groups with vested interests in Iraq or Africa.

While small, this combined lobby looms increasingly large as economic stagnation imperils Mr. Chirac's original hopes of getting France off to a fresh start.

Keeping track of these strands of French policy also seems to have overtaxed the abilities of the French government, which suffers badly from an absence of clear lines of authority, according to a senior official, Jean Picq, who criticized the government for mismanagement when he resigned last month.

Poor handling has deprived France of kudos even when Paris seemed to deserve them.

With a good case in denouncing Washington for high-handedness in ousting Boutros Boutros Ghali as UN secretary-general, for example, Paris clung to its position so long that, as a Clinton aide pointed out, it lost any effective voice in choosing his successor and annoyed the United States. Its choice, Kofi Annan, won.

Worse, in pushing the French view, Paris displayed such disregard for consensus that the initial antagonism toward the United States boom-

eranged into antagonism toward France as the Security Council voting swung from 14 to 1 against the United States to 14 to 1 against France.

Ablative French behavior, a Clinton aide warned, started to have a "corrosive effect" on relations with Washington. The official added that Paris for the moment seemed "oddly indifferent or perhaps unaware" of the damage, perhaps because U.S.-French cooperation has remained relatively smooth on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the main European security issue.

So far, no signs of alarm have emerged from Germany, France's chief European ally, apparently because Paris has carefully stuck with the program for a single European currency in 1998 — the overriding international priority for Mr. Chirac and for Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

But even German officials said that credibility problems are starting to arise in Bonn, where a high-placed official complained about what he called "misrepresentations" by French diplomats about dealings between Paris and Washington on European security issues, especially about

the agenda giving Europe a larger role in NATO.

U.S.-French disharmony seems to be causing more alarm among Europe's smaller countries.

An Italian diplomat said that his government was typical in fearing that French leaders might revert to practices of trying to brush aside U.S. concerns in Europe. From there, he said, the next step would be for France to think that it can run Europe, perhaps in tandem with Germany, without paying attention to other capitals.

Echoing his analysis, British and Dutch sources stressed that France sometimes seemed ready to trample on the spirit of consensus that had been nurtured in such U.S.-led organizations as NATO, which has a record of give-and-take among allies that means even the smaller countries' views have at least received a hearing.

Asking if France has understood the rules of the NATO club it wants to rejoin, the Nieuw Zürcher Zeitung, the Swiss daily newspaper, recently said that Paris, in demanding the powerful command slot at NATO headquarters in Naples, was behaving like someone who quit a club and then asked to rejoin and expected to be made treasurer right away.

Publicly dismissing such criticism as a temper in a teapot, French officials sound increasingly defensive about

their foreign policy record — and in private describe the Foreign Ministry as a shambles.

Last summer we started suffering an embarrassment every two weeks, but lately it's been more like two embarrassments every week," said a French official, who listed a range of initiatives that have backfired.

• In Zaire, French calls for military intervention encountered U.S. skepticism, then proved unnecessary when refugees returned voluntarily to Rwanda. The incident left an aftertaste of suspicion in Africa that France had sounded a false alarm with a hidden political agenda for helping its African clients.

• At world trade talks last month in Singapore, France angered its EU partners by pressing agricultural issues that might have derailed a landmark accord cutting duties on computers for Europeans.

• The Naples command post seems beyond France's reach. Paris now says it wants the job for a European — not French — officer, but the Paris daily, Liberation, wrote that "now only the White House can save France's face."

• In the Middle East, France's bid for a high-profile role in the peace process has gone nowhere, except to irritate other EU governments. Moves to position France favorably with Iraq have a hidden cost in the heightened suspicion of Paris throughout the Gulf.

Swiss Leader Says Call for a Jewish Fund Is 'Blackmail'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BERN — The Swiss government is standing firm in the face of outrage over its dismissal of demands for a multimillion-dollar fund to help Jews who lost assets in the Nazi Holocaust.

In a newspaper interview, the outgoing Swiss president, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, dismissed as "blackmail" calls for Bern to set up a compensation fund for Jews who might be entitled to money left in Swiss banks after the Holocaust.

Mr. Delamuraz also accused foreign critics of trying to undermine Switzerland's role as a world financial center with accusations that the Swiss profited cynically from World War II.

"Economic competition is fierce and this affair proves it," Mr. Delamuraz told the Tribune de Geneve.

In some of the strongest language used so far by Bern politicians, Mr. Delamuraz brushed off demands by the World Jewish Congress and a U.S. senator for quick compensation for Holocaust sur-

vivors and heirs who say Swiss banks have denied them money left there as a safe haven from Nazi looting.

He rejected creation of a \$250 million fund he said had been proposed to special Ambassador Thomas Borer, who met critics from the World Jewish Congress and the U.S. Senate Banking Committee chairman, Alfonse D'Amato.

"This is nothing less than extortion and blackmail," he said. "This fund would make it much more difficult to establish the truth."

The World Jewish Congress said in New York that Mr. Delamuraz had shown

"shocking insensitivity" in suggesting that Jews had resorted to blackmail.

"He has shown shocking insensitivity to the moral concerns of the Jewish people as well as others who feel deeply the tragedy of the Holocaust and those terrible years,"

Vice President Kalman Sulzmann said in a statement.

Mr. Delamuraz had repeated Bern's stance that any compensation should wait for the findings of a nine-member historical panel named by the cabinet two weeks ago.

(AP, Reuters)

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Korean Progress

North Korea's apology on Sunday for attempting to infiltrate South Korea by submarine-borne commandos in September was remarkable enough, coming as it did from a country whose past statements have been largely limited to apocalyptic military threats and crude ideological belligerence. But Pyongyang's expression of "deep regret" for the submarine episode and its promise to make sure that such infiltrations will not be repeated turns out to be part of an even broader and more promising diplomatic breakthrough.

For years North Korea has tried to freeze out South Korea by seeking an exclusive dialogue with the United States. But in the process of negotiating the apology for the still mysterious submarine incident, which left 24 North Korean commandos and several South Korean civilians dead, Washington has won the North's agreement to meet jointly with Seoul and Washington as a prelude to talks on officially ending the Korean War. This is an impressive diplomatic triumph, turning a crisis into a chance for peace. It may also signal a significant easing of North Korea's dangerous isolation from the rest of the world. The Clinton administration and its individual negotiators deserve high marks.

North Korea did not apologize directly, as it should have, to South Korea, which Pyongyang ritually denounced on Monday. Nevertheless, the wording, carefully negotiated between North Korea and the United States, was designed to meet Seoul's minimum conditions for resuming pragmatic cooperation with the North.

That cooperation will now occur on several levels. There will be the proposed peace talks, which are meant to include the United States and China as well as the two Koreas. South Korea will help replace North Korea's nuclear power reactors with models less likely to produce potential bomb fuel. Finally, Seoul should now also feel sufficiently mollified to resume humanitarian food assistance to alleviate a flood-produced famine in the North. North Korea accompanied its state-

ment of apology with an agreement to maintain storage safeguards on its spent reactor fuel, and Washington indicated that it will now unfreeze export licenses for commercial food shipments to the North.

North Korea's actions this week suggest strongly that the long-isolated Communist regime may indeed be nervously seeking to re-enter the community of civilized nations. No outsider can be sure about what goes on in Pyongyang's inner circles, but the apology and the agreement to meet jointly with Washington and Seoul seem to support the Clinton administration's hopes that careful diplomatic engagement could encourage steps toward North-South peace.

Ever since the Bush administration, American policy has been based on the assumption that North Korea fears deeply for its future in a world where it can no longer count on the support of its two giant neighbors, Russia and China. Both of those countries have strengthened their ties with the more prosperous South Korean regime at Pyongyang's expense. North Korea has also been suffering from severe food shortages after two years of disastrous floods. Washington fears that these adverse developments could tempt Northern leaders into rash military adventures or precipitate a sudden and disastrous economic collapse. But it also believes that careful diplomacy can avert these dangers.

That is why, despite the impatience of some critics, Washington has moved deliberately and cautiously to reach an accommodation on issues like nuclear safeguards, food assistance and the submarine affair. That strategy has now been rewarded with two quick successes, the submarine apology and the promise of wider talks. It is important for the two Koreas to build on this week's achievements, the South by moving ahead with food relief and the new nuclear reactors, the North by entering formal peace talks and permanently suspending its propaganda attacks on South Korea and its elected leaders.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Not Such a Bad Year

Nineteen ninety-six was a high-mutter year in America — more than the usual plenitude of grouching and hand-wringing and the rest. It may be the case that every four years the electorate likes to spend at least the first 10 months bawling the choice that is about to be presented to it. And it may also be true that every four years, if not in terms of candidates at least in terms of the quality of campaigning, the naysayers have a good point: On this night, things do seem to get dramatically worse with every new election. But 1996 may have been politically distinctive in at least one way: It is hard to remember a time when people were as unhappy and uncharitable about their own party and candidates as they were this past year.

So, although we were ourselves enthusiastic participants in the bad-mouthing of political 1996, it seems axiomatic to us to try at least to remember, now that the reviled year has gone its unlamented way, that what was being so strenuously complained about were problems and disappointments that existed within a safe and stable framework of democracy.

The same holds true for some of the apocalyptic economic analysis that marked the year and disfigured the political dialogue from time to time. Early in the year especially, you could hear that the system had broken down, that the economically dispossessed — a growing and increasingly desperate and restless class of workers who were ready for revolution — were the single key element in how the race would turn out. Here, too, there was a need for perspective. Yes, there is plenty of inequity in the way the work force is rewarded, and yes, there are some geographic and industrial locales where hardship abounds. But as with politics so with the economy: What needs fixing needs fixing within the framework of a bounteous and thriving — in fact, internationally unequal — system.

If you want to take a measure of all this, think only of the kinds of New Year's resolutions that fill the papers and the airwaves and the conversations among friends. They are about many things, but almost invariably there is one large, prominent, priority section given over to the exercise of self-discipline in the presence of too much available food, drink and opportunity

to squander time or goof off or abandon responsibility and purpose. "I will do all this," Americans by the millions are saying, and then comes the litany: eat less, drink less, sit around less, procrastinate less... and on and on.

We are, in short, a distinctively privileged people, and although 1996 may have been for many (and in the opinion of many others) a very bad year, it was bad only within that framework of democratic certainty and economic viability that are the envy of so many other people in the world. By Bosnian or Rwandan standards — or, for that matter, by the standards of many other tormented places where deprivation is not the exception but the rule — the ordeal of 1996, as Americans may have seen it, would be incomprehensible. As we go about wishing one another and our grand old country a happy new year, we should ardently hope (and work) for happier new years for others around the world as well — places that haven't seen a happy year of any kind for a long, long time.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment

Albright's Qualifications

All you need to know about Madeleine Albright's qualifications may be gleaned from a list of the constituencies that are rattled by her rise. They are, briefly, the economists, the Russophiles, the Powellites and the professional peace-processors.

The economists worry that Mrs. Albright thinks too much about strategy and security and too little about markets and profits. The Russophiles note her passionate attempt to stop Serbia from destroying Bosnia and her enthusiasm for the expansion of NATO to Russia's door. The Powellites recall grimly that she challenged the author of the "Powell doctrine" — these words, reported in his memoir, "What's the point of having this superb military you're always talking about if we can't use it?" And the professional peace-processors, led by her predecessor, know that she does not wake up in the middle of the night with a bright hope about Hafiz Assad.

—The New Republic (Washington)

EDITORIALS/OPINION

It's Going to Be a Critical Year for Diplomacy

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Apart from surprise crises, bound to come in this edgy world, the new year will confront world policymakers with crucial decisions already on the agenda. They will require subtle management, as well as clear-minded and hardheaded judgment.

Before saying "welcome" to incoming U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, it is appropriate to note with appreciation the achievement of her predecessor, Warren Christopher, in preparing for these historic turning points with cool and persistent competence.

Mr. Christopher had to put up with a lot of criticism, including from me, for what seemed to be his lack of initiative and capacity to develop a grand strategy. But with hindsight it is evident that his thoughtful steadiness did move the world forward and avert blowups.

Now the planning and organizing, by no means all led by America, come to be tested. The most critical step ahead will be launching the expansion of NATO to the east and reassuring Russia sufficiently to head off a dangerous reaction. The decision has been made in principle, and Moscow knows that. The issue is the context.

It would make a big difference if Moscow had a real sense of its own priorities, as Mikhail Gorbachev did

when he negotiated German reunification in 1990. But Russia is only saying what it is against.

The United States will have to take the initiative because of this Russian "policy paralysis," as Robert Blackwill, Arnold Horelick and former Senator Sam Nunn say in a closely reasoned think tank paper on "Stopping the Decline in U.S.-Russian Relations." They recommend five conciliatory measures.

• Have NATO announce a pause in further enlargement after the first phase so that it won't look like an irresistible steamroller. They point out that an influx of five to 10 years would give the alliance time to absorb the newcomers and learn the problems involved.

• Meanwhile, assuage the concerns of the Baltic states and Ukraine by intensifying their involvement in Partnership for Peace activities and their ties to the European Union.

• Make sure that the proposed NATO-Russia summit pact offers consultations on all levels and a broad spectrum of specific negotiations.

• Move to improve presently very poor prospects for Russian ratification of the vital START-2 treaty reducing

nuclear arsenals by meeting legitimate Russian objections and going ahead to work out principles for a planned START-3 pact on much deeper cuts.

• Revise the treaty limiting conventional forces in Europe to take account of the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact.

The paper, published by the Rand Corporation, concludes that there is no telling if Moscow is capable of accepting now, but "the effort to arrive at an outcome along these lines is essential [and] would leave the U.S.-Russian relationship in better shape to make an overall recovery consistent with U.S. national interests."

The European Union has red-letter dates this year which do not directly involve the United States but will have an important impact. They are conclusion of the intergovernmental conference on reforming its institutions and preparing both for a single currency and for admission of new members.

The Union is stalled on reforms and unlikely to achieve more than tinkering by the midyear deadline. That alone is reason why the idea of some that NATO should hold off and let eastern applicants join the European Union first is simply not feasible. Things won't stand still for so long.

On the euro, the proposed single currency, there is also trouble ahead. Lead-

ers are determined to go through with it, but while they have been decisive, they are failing badly in their job of developing public support. All the debate comes from opponents listing disadvantages. There is scarcely any effort to explain to people what they will have to gain from a common legal tender.

French President Jacques Chirac tells constituents only that it will protect them against "American dollar hegemony," a negative argument in itself, and a negative argument in itself. The United States cannot do the Europeans' work for them, but it can help by expressing support for the euro. If the plan fails, it would hurt the global economy.

Serbian national elections are due this year, and if Slobodan Milosevic holds out that long without provoking civil war it will be essential for the West to do all it can to see that they are free elections. Meanwhile, it must lean on Mr. Milosevic to avoid violence. This pressure is surely the main reason for his restraint so far.

Crisis are foreseeable in Zaire, North Korea and maybe in Serbia's province of Kosovo if Belgrade erupts. The Middle East peace process teeters on the brink. It won't be an easy year for diplomacy, but the basic policies are in place, which is a fair start.

© Flora Lewis

If Globalizing Means Westernizing, Then It Means Trouble

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The most important force at work in the new world will be the drive of the United States and its allies to incorporate the non-Western world into a globalized economy. Those responsible know that this will bring dramatic social change with it, but they take for granted that Westernization is not only progress, and benevolent, but inevitable.

Yet the implications are revolutionary. From the French Revolution to the New World Order, Westernization in the non-Western world has provoked ferocious resistance and struggle, cultural and social disruption, even terror and war.

The West neglects this because of our own historical parochialism, but also because of our economic determinism. Americans believe that economic success automatically promotes human success. In mainstream circles, trade is be-

lieved overwhelmingly benevolent, in part because America's leadership can scarcely imagine a valid alternative to the materialism and political values of the modern West.

Today's investment in non-Western countries is conceded to be a "story of restless and ruthless capital continually moving from country to country in search of new markets and untapped low-wage labor," to quote a typical account, but the result is positive. International investment has "almost everywhere... helped raise wages and living standards."

When the investor moves on, in search of still cheaper labor, the workers he leaves behind "go across the street and start making computers and cars." Thus, the argument goes, does the invisible hand of the market bless all, and demonstrate that

greed is good not only for you and me but for those who make our goods for a pittance of what we would pay at home.

I have written in the past about this egregiously sentimental conception of the work-ethic of the international market, and will not repeat myself other than to insist on a point still widely unacknowledged.

Technology, by internationalizing the labor market, has made available to industry what is for practical purposes an inexhaustible labor pool. The result is that the overseas laborer has no bargaining power against the international corporation, ready to move on, but neither does the laborer in the United States or any advanced country.

Technology and globalization have created the conditions in which what the 19th century economist David Ricardo

called the Iron Law of Wages is at last free to function. That "law" says that wages will automatically stabilize at about subsistence level.

Ricardo's forecast was not fulfilled in the past because his Malthusian assumption of unchecked population growth was wrong. Limited national labor markets allowed labor to bargain from scarcity. Globalization puts an end to that.

International investment creates jobs in the newly internationalized sector of non-Western economies, but tends to destroy local manufacture and agriculture, which cannot compete with imports from multinational producers. According to the French scholar Michel Husson, "with few exceptions the countries of the Third World create fewer jobs after opening to international competition" than before. He says this is demonstrated in commercial balance figures.

We are not, however, merely dealing with economics. In the argument about globalization's consequences, the political argument from history is crucially neglected.

The major political phenomena of the last 80 years include Bolshevism in Russia, Japanese imperialism, Asian nationalism and Arab nationalism, and Islamic fundamentalism. Each of these was arguably a violent effort to throw off, or master, or revenge, the invasive influence of European or American economic forces and of disruptive Western ideas and values.

China will remake Hong Kong this summer, in revenge for the Opium Wars. What were the Opium Wars if not a market-opening initiative by Britain, meant to benefit British and Indian consumers by supplying China with a commodity, opium, for which there already was an eager market?

What was the Chinese government's attempt to prohibit this trade if not (as the World Trade Organization might put it) a case of self-defeating protectionism? That is what it turned out to be. And what are the consequences today?

Guatemala last week signed a national amnesty to end a 36-year civil war that was fundamentally a struggle between a Mayan Indian peasantry and a Spanish-descended elite whose interests were linked to international trade and exploitative foreign investment.

Iran is still in traumatic political reaction to its monarch's U.S.-encouraged efforts during the 1960s and 1970s to use Iran's U.S.-managed oil revenues to Westernize the country and make it a major player in the international economy.

The internationalization of any non-Western economy automatically undermines social practices, and religious and cultural norms. It is a literally subversive force.

The novelist Lawrence Sanders has written of the impact of Western intrusion on a Balkan community's "wholeness... so tightly woven, so beautiful and symmetrical like a swallow's nest." He added, "We are picking it apart... unaware of the damage we do."

There will sooner or later be a reaction. It is not inconceivable that it could be as important as Bolshevism or Maoism. The West's rush to globalize the world, and abolish whatever was there before, may one day look like the rush of the Gadarene swine to self-destruction.

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Nationalists Sometimes Fall Into Bad Company

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The inspiring peaceful protests that have filled the snowy streets of Belgrade for five weeks have caused Western governments to reassess their once close working partnership with Slobodan Milosevic. That is a good first step.

But the brave challenge that Serbian pensioners, workers, students and others have mounted to Mr. Milosevic's rule should also bring a broader reflection in the West about the narrow, manipulative and inadequate responses from the outside world to the Balkan crises of the 1990s.

Notice These Students

By Vladimir Arsenijevic

BELGRADE — For more than a month now, thousands of students have assembled every day at noon in front of Belgrade University's philosophy department building, a natural meeting place for students and other young people.

One floor contains one of the city's biggest bookstores. Plato. On the floor above is the Cool Jazz Café, where literary evenings and discussion groups are held to the backdrop of a live jazz band. In the basement is Indus, a techno-music club that often has disk jockeys from London, Chicago and New York.

The philosophy department is a symbol of decades-long resistance to both communism and the nationalist authorities of Serbia. Nowadays its glass walls are covered with clever and sometimes insulting messages to President Slobodan Milosevic. Techno-pop and rap music blare from amplifiers as the students are addressed by professors who support them and by leading names from the cultural life of this city of 2 million: actors, rock stars, pop singers, writers, screen and stage directors.

When the speakers finish, the students set off for their daily "stroll." Students create a gentle cacophony with bells, whistles and bugles. They carry banners and wave to people watching from the windows.

Among the political placards, one is likely to see a national flag of Brazil, for example, a poster of Pamela Anderson Lee from "Baywatch," a banner with Bob Marley's face printed against the sunny national colors of Jamaica. This free-wheeling protest is a counterpoint to the rigidity and pathetic nationalism of the Milosevic regime.

The street protests, however general, necessarily change a general perception of Serbs as a monolithic, irrational and loathsome tribe ruled totally by ancient hatreds and blood lusts. In showing their divisions, the Serbs have also shown an essential decency that the demands of war and ethnic solidarity had obscured in recent years.

Media coverage and official condemnations rightly focused on rape camps, summary mass executions and the forced evacuations of entire cities inhabited by Bosnian Muslims as the defining expressions of Serbian nationalism.

One valuable by-product of the still gathering showdown between Mr. Milosevic and the protesters could be a broader understanding in the outside world of what nationalism is, and is not, in the interconnected, interfused world of the end of the millennium.

That complex subject is addressed in an important new essay by Robert H. Wiebe, professor of history at Northwestern University, in the winter issue of World Policy Journal. In it, Mr. Wiebe recalls that at the dawn of the 20th century nationalism "was a liberal promise of freedom and fulfillment for countless millions."

But in the next 10 decades nationalism "fell into bad company." Even worse, "it came to be seen as the very antithesis of a conviction that modern weaponry, global economics and planetary ecology made increasingly urgent: the universality of the human condition."

Mr. Wiebe offers this useful definition of nationalism: "A political expression of the desire among people who believe they have a common ancestry and a common destiny to govern themselves in a place peculiarly identified with their history and its fulfillment."

Americans increasingly came to see others' nationalism as irrational, destructive or inconvenient, especially as U.S. interests in global economics and fostering international political stability grew.

The breakup of the Soviet empire briefly restored the luster of political nationalism, as Central Europe emerged from occupation. But wars in the former Soviet republics and the bloody breakup of Yugoslavia quickly made nationalism a dirty word again.

More specifically, the appalling atrocities committed by Serbian forces against the Bosnians turned Serbian nationalism into a handy tool that outsiders used to justify preconceived opinions.

Those who demanded intervention to stop the human suffering said that an insatiable drive for a Greater Serbia had to be met by outside force. That view turned out to be right, if somewhat overstated.

Those who opposed intervention cited the ancient hatreds and implacable nationalisms of the Balkans to justify the opposite conclusion: that it would be foolhardy to intervene. General Barry McCaffrey (now the Clinton administration's drug czar) told Congress in 1992 that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had concluded that a year of air strikes and a field army of 400,000 troops would be required to tame Serbia in an operation that would be more difficult than fighting guerrillas in Vietnam.

In fact, it took a handful of NATO air strikes and a blitzkrieg by Croatia's small army in 1995 to bring Mr. Milosevic to the peace table and make him admit that Greater Serbia was beyond his reach.

He seems to be on the eighth of his nine lives in large part because he lost the war to Croatia, failed to secure a clear victory in Bosnia and wrecked Serbia's once healthy economy.

He still has enough police and military muscle to clear the streets and stay in office at least for a while longer. But Serbia and history seem to have used him up and will soon spit him out. The demonstrations are both catalyst and testimony to that outcome.

The Serbs will then decide what kind of nation they will be next. The gentle upswing of December shows that their options — and those of the outside world — are not discarded irrevocably by ancient hatreds.

The Washington Post

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Puerto Rico

MADRID — The Queen Regent signed a decree granting reforms for Puerto Rico. According to the new laws, the provincial assembly will resolve what is proper for the management in the whole island, of public works, agriculture, manufactures, trade, instruction, immigration, and colonization.

The Governor-General will represent the National Government in Puerto Rico. He will be the commander-in-chief of the army and the navy stationed on the island, delegate of the Ministers of the Colonies, of State, of War and of the Navy.

1922: A United India

AHMADABAD — A plea for the declaration of an Indian Republic to be called the United States of India was made by Hazrat Mohani, president of the All-India Muslim League. He

declared that the Republic was to be obtained by guerrilla warfare, if necessary. Mr. Gandhi, who was present, was invited by the speaker to form a parallel government, with his own parliament and armies. To calm the Hindus' apprehensions, M. Mohani declared that India belonged equally to Hindus and Mohammedans.

1947: Canadians Now

OTTAWA — Nearly eighty years after Canada's confederation as a Dominion, Canadians for the first time have become legally full-fledged "Canadian citizens." The Dominion's 12,000,000 people will retain status as British subjects. The government also introduced a new national flag, as part of the country's evolution from a British colony to a sovereign state. Canada honors technically Britain's King George VI as "King of Canada."

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ASIA/PACIFIC

China's Legal Reforms May Backfire for Some

Little Effect Seen on Abuse by Police

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

BEIJING — China is preparing to carry out a series of legal reforms hailed by some as a step toward greater rule of law and protection of individual rights. But the impending changes seem to have provoked officials to speed up the prosecution and sentencing to long prison terms of political dissidents, and several Chinese scholars and Western human rights advocates say they do not expect the changes to end the abuse of police powers anytime soon.

On Wednesday, the police, prosecutors and judges were putting into effect reforms of criminal procedures approved by the People's Congress in March. The reforms give defendants greater access to lawyers and put a 30-day limit on so-called administrative detention, widely abused by China's police officials in the past.

China also announced on Dec. 24 that it had drafted legislation to erase the political crime of "counterrevolution," a hallmark of the Communist revolutionary code of justice. It will be replaced by more specific statutes against acts that "jeopardize state security."

Human rights organizations have pressed Beijing to abolish "counterrevolution" crimes for many years.

The reforms are widely regarded as a beginning toward building a body of law providing greater protection of individual rights. But none of those changes will bring an end to the persecution of political and religious dissidents in China, experts say.

The police will still have ample authority to throw anyone into a "reform through labor" camp for three years without trial. And the new procedures and laws that will replace the old ones still make a mockery of the "freedom of speech" clause in China's 1982 constitution.

The amendments will do nothing to end the confinement of China's most famous political prisoner, Wei Jingsheng, who was convicted under the counterrevolution statute a year ago and was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his speeches and articles espousing democracy.

And in recent weeks, human rights advocates say, the approaching deadline on ending long-term, arbitrary detentions has only spurred the police and prosecutors to bring charges against a number of political prisoners who had been languishing without charge for years.

One case cited is the prosecution that was initiated in November of two labor organizers in Shenzhen, the booming "special economic zone" that China operates just across the border from Hong Kong. The two men, Li Wenming, 28, a one-time writer for a youth magazine, and Guo Baosheng, 24, a philosophy major at Beijing University, were arrested but not charged in May 1994 after they sought to form an independent labor union among Shenzhen's workers.

As the end of the year approached, Communist Party officials in charge of Shenzhen's court system faced the problem of whether to release the men, send them to a labor camp for up to three years, or bring charges and sentence them to long terms.

Suddenly last month, the two men were charged by the Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court with counter-revolution and trying to overthrow the government, though the trial has been postponed.

Although the Chinese authorities do not publicize all of these prosecutions, human rights groups say that aside from the Shenzhen case, perhaps dozens of other "counterrevolution" prosecutions are under way in several provinces, including Tibet.

"China has all these people stored up in detention," said John Kamm, a Hong Kong business leader who often travels to Beijing to seek the release of political prisoners. "And now many of them are being brought to trial because, before long, it might be impossible to charge them with counterrevolution, and it will be illegal to detain them further."

The most noted case of docket-clearing by Chinese courts was the prosecution in October of Wang Dan, the best-known student leader of the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. After 17 months' detention without charge, Mr. Wang was tried and sentenced to 11 years in prison.

Human rights groups warn that the new criminal procedures could actually lead to greater abuses in the short term because the police may be quicker to bring spurious charges and may interpret the procedures in a highly restrictive manner.

"We are under no illusions that these changes to the criminal procedure law will end police abuses," said Jonathan Hecht, a Harvard University scholar of Chinese law who is one of the Western experts volunteering advice and expertise to Chinese legislators.

Deng Is Said to Be in Intensive Care

Reuters

HONG KONG — Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, was placed in intensive care after he fell unconscious briefly, the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong reported.

Nurses tending Mr. Deng, the 92-year-old patriarch and architect of China's sweeping economic reforms, were unable to wake him for supper Monday night and placed him in intensive care in his ward-like house in Beijing after he recovered consciousness later that night, the newspaper said Wednesday.

The report could not be independently confirmed in Beijing.

Mr. Deng has experienced a "spell of unconsciousness" about once a week since early last year, the paper quoted a source close to the

family as saying Tuesday. But the source denied newspaper reports that Mr. Deng had recently been admitted to a hospital.

The independent Sing Tao Daily, published in Hong Kong, quoted an informed Beijing source as saying that Mr. Deng's health had recently deteriorated and he was sent to a military hospital in Beijing's western suburbs last week.

His health has deteriorated in much the same way as other patients suffering from the advanced stage of Parkinson's disease, the Morning Post quoted the same source as saying.

The independent Ming Pao also quoted on Wednesday a spokesman of Xinhua News Agency's Hong Kong branch as saying that reports Mr. Deng was admitted to a hospital in a critical state were unfounded.



A Buddhist monk sweeping away debris after union activists staged a New Year's Eve rally in central Seoul. In the early hours of Wednesday, thousands of workers and students clashed with police over a new labor law. They demanded the ouster of President Kim Young Sam.

Singapore's Vote Called a Test of Stability

Reuters

SINGAPORE — Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Wednesday that his position and Singapore's stability could be questioned if his party fared badly in elections Thursday, even though it already has won continued control of the government.

The governing People's Action Party is guaranteed a majority in Parliament because 47 of the 83 seats are not being contested by the opposition. But, campaigning for the re-

maining 36 seats, Mr. Goh made it clear that he considered strong support in the contested areas crucial to his government's credibility.

"This election is watched not just by Singaporeans, but also by foreigners, by other countries," he said at a news conference.

He said if his party did not do well, foreigners would conclude that his position had weakened, "which means they would say after me, who will be the next prime minister? Would I be challenged internally within the

PAP, would I be challenged by others outside the PAP? So they would speculate as to the stability of Singapore."

The party has been in power since independence in 1965 and faced no opposition members in Parliament until 1981. In the outgoing Parliament, opposition parties held just four seats.

With that history, an increase of even a few seats for the opposition could be seen as a major blow to the People's Action Party and to Mr. Goh's leadership, political analysts said.

BRIEFLY ASIA

India Rail Bridge Is Blown Up

SENSAPANI, India — Suspected tribal militants defied an army crackdown and blew up a railroad bridge Wednesday in the same region of northeastern India where two blasts tore through a passenger train this week.

The police said the explosion destroyed a railroad bridge about 160 kilometers (100 miles) northeast of the spot where dozens of train passengers were killed Monday in explosions that wrecked the Delhi-bound Brahmaputra Mail train. Rescuers have recovered nearly 60 bodies from the train, and the authorities said they expected to find more victims in the wreckage.

No one was wounded in Wednesday's explosion, which occurred in the early morning about 70 kilometers west of Assam state's biggest city, Guwahati. (Reuters)

9-Year Term for China Dissident

BEIJING — A Chinese court has sentenced a dissident and former student leader, Li Hai, to nine years in prison for prying into state secrets, a family member said.

Mr. Li had initially been charged with leaking state secrets, but his family and lawyer challenged the charges, arguing that he was not a civil servant and had no access to state secrets. Instead, the Chaoyang District Court in Beijing changed the charge, sentencing Mr. Li to nine years in prison for prying into state secrets, the relative said.

The family has not been allowed to meet Mr. Li since he was detained in May 1995. (Reuters)

Appeal by Burma's Opposition

RANGOON — World leaders should step up the pressure for democratic reform in Burma, the opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has urged. The appeal Tuesday marked her first meeting with reporters after nearly a month of near-total confinement at her home.

"The coming new year, I hope, will bring progress in the direction of democracy, but it won't come without effort," she said. "I would exert the maximum pressure possible on SLORC" — the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi dismissed the regime's accusations that her party played a role in recent student unrest and was responsible for a bombing Dec. 25 that killed five people. (AP)

Sri Lanka Army Kills 19 Rebels

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan forces killed at least 19 guerrillas and attacked a Tamil rebel base Wednesday, the second day of an offensive to clear separatist bases in the country's east, military officials said.

The troops, backed by aircraft and artillery, overran a camp of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at a village southwest of Batticaloa, which is 240 kilometers (150 miles) east of Colombo, military officials said. At least 14 rebels in the camp were killed. (Reuters)

For the Record

Thirteen people were killed and 29 others were hurt in overnight clashes in India's troubled northern state of Kashmir, the police said Wednesday. (AFP)

Four coal miners who had been trapped for 16 days in a mine shaft 107 meters (350 feet) deep in China's northeast Liaoning Province, have been rescued, the Xinhua news agency reported. (AFP)

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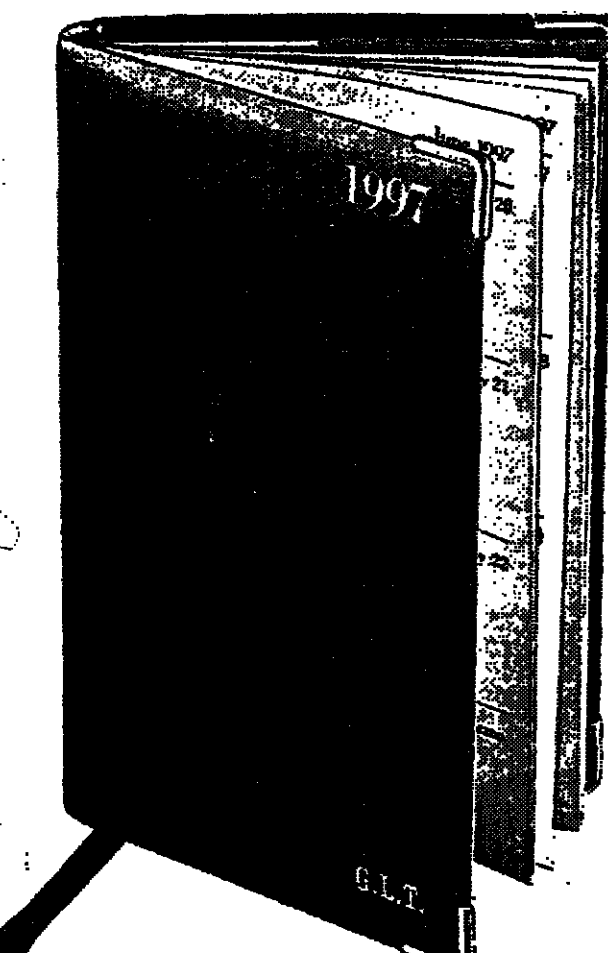
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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Molecular Mimicry: Tackling Autoimmune Ailments

By Sandra Blakeslee

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — First the victims suffer a flu-like illness: aches, chills, headache, a fever. They gradually recover, never really knowing what hit them. But then — perhaps right away, often much later — their immune systems begin to attack various cells and tissues in their bodies.

The target can be cells in the pancreas, the membrane lining of knuckles and other joints, a brain protein, skin cells or heart tissue. But in all cases the result is a so-called autoimmune disease in which the body attacks itself, sometimes with crippling effect, sometimes even leading to an early death.

Ten years ago, if the victim asked, "Why me? Why did my body turn

against itself?" a doctor could not have answered the question. But many prominent immunologists here and abroad say that answers are beginning to be found in a controversial theory called molecular mimicry. Like the Rosetta stone, which provided a key for deciphering hieroglyphics, molecular mimicry is a key to reading the origin and development of diseases in which the immune system plays the villain rather than the protector.

These ailments remain deeply mysterious, partly because of the complexity of the immune system, which involves thousands of interactions, hundreds of obscure cellular networks and scores of cell types that encode human responses to disease, determining when or if people get sick, how long they stay sick and how or if they recover.

The theory of molecular mimicry

suggests that common pathogens, mostly viruses and bacteria, touch off autoimmune diseases when a person's immune system commits a colossal blunder, confusing foreign proteins with the body's own proteins. When immune system agents attack the pathogens, they also attack the body they are intended to protect.

Pathogens like bacteria and viruses have been implicated in autoimmune disease for some time, said Dr. Lawrence Steinman, a professor of neurology at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. But convincing proof was lacking. New findings reported in the last two or three years, however, are offering more support for the idea in revealing biochemical mechanisms that may be involved. To understand how molecular mimicry is believed to work, consider two people who are exposed to the com-

mon coxsackie virus. When the virus enters the body of the first, it homes in on certain structures in his respiratory tract. Once inside those cells, it sets off an immune response. His body wants to get rid of it.

The details of how this occurs are now well known. The virus is taken up by special cells that literally engulf it and chop the virus up into thousands of fragments. Each fragment is composed of 10 to 15 amino acids. A few of those fragments are then carried out to the surface of the immune cell (a macrophage, a dendritic cell or a B cell), and placed in a cleft or strategic pocket. The fragments literally dangle in the cleft, telling the body, "Hey, I'm a foreign protein from the coxsackie virus. Come and get me."

What gets to the cleft depends on the person's genes. He chops the virus into many different fragments but his genes

determine which ones he will transport to the cleft. In this case, he carries only those fragments containing amino acids 15 through 30 of the coxsackie virus out to the cell surface. The next step is also well understood. The body contains millions of circulating T cells, each of which is looking for a specific target — a protein fragment. Each T cell has a slightly different shape so every size and shape of protein fragment can be recognized.

ONCE a T cell docks onto coxsackie fragment 15 to 30, the T cell releases a flood of signals that initiate destruction of any tissues containing the virus. The immune system worked.

In the second case of exposure to the virus, the person's genes are different, so his immune system chops up the virus into different fragments. His so-

called antigen presenting cells (the chop shops) send to the cleft fragments containing amino acid 80 through 95.

Here comes the blunder. It turns out that islet cells in his pancreas contain a protein, glutamic acid decarboxylase, that has the same amino acid sequence on its surface. The viral fragment mimics one of the proteins. But this person's immune system does not know this.

A T cell comes along, attaches to the fragment and begins to destroy all cells containing that fragment. Throat cells infected with the virus are killed. But the activated T cell and its troops go on a hunting expedition, seeking out and all cells that show the fragment marker. When it finds such cells in the pancreas, healthy islet cells, the T cell is still bent on murder. It sets into motion a cascade of destruction. Islet cells die. The patient develops juvenile diabetes.

Exercise, Yes, but Moderately

By Marlene Cimons

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The surgeon general called on Americans to commit themselves to doing less exercise in 1997 — and to do it less vigorously — than they think they should.

Many Americans, shamed by their slothful behavior during an indulgent holiday season, make overly ambitious exercise resolutions for the New Year.

They go out and try to run five miles. Or they join a gym and spend two hours working out the first day. Or they spend a lot of money on a piece of expensive equipment, such as a treadmill or a stair climber, and use it for several hours as soon as they get it home.

A big mistake.

They get tired and sore. Or they get injured. They become discouraged, and they quit — in the end doing nothing.

"The best exercise is one that you are going to do," said Acting Surgeon General Audrey F. Manley, urging Americans to embrace "a more moderate approach" to working out.

"We need to throw out the notion of

no pain, no gain," said Florence Griffith-Joyner, co-chairwoman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, and 1988 Olympic gold medal sprinter.

The surgeon general says more than 60 percent of American adults do not achieve the recommended amount of physical activity, and 25 percent of adults do not exercise at all. The figures for young people age 12 to 21: nearly 50 percent are not regularly active.

Experts believe that many Americans do not necessarily shun exercise, but find it extremely difficult to find time to include it in the framework of already busy days.

Thus, in recent years, they have tried to convey the message that overly vigorous workouts are not necessary. They have tried to promote activities that can be more easily incorporated into an ordinary day — such as using the stairs to one's office instead of an elevator — and have stressed that just a little bit of daily activity can produce enormous health benefits.

Examples include walking briskly for 30 minutes, washing and waxing a car for 45 minutes to an hour, gardening for 30 to 45 minutes, pushing a stroller for a mile and a half in 30 minutes, or swimming laps for 20 minutes.

Hormone Linked to Prostate Cancer

Reuters

WASHINGTON — The male hormone androgen might boost levels of gene-damaging chemicals that have been linked to prostate cancer in older men, scientists have found. More research into the connection "could potentially provide information on how to regulate or prevent certain age- and hormone-associated diseases, including

cancer," said a study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. The study focuses on the apparent tie between aging, androgen, anti-oxidants that counteract unstable DNA-damaging chemicals, and prostate cancer.

Research last year concluded that men who had a diet rich in tomatoes, which have the powerful anti-oxidant lycopene, had a lower risk of cancer. The new study found that androgen can

shift the pro-oxidant-anti-oxidant balance, reducing anti-oxidants and increasing dangerous reactive oxygen species in certain prostate cancer cells called LNCaP cells.

"We're linking this epidemiological evidence that shows that anti-oxidants might help block cancer with some evidence that androgens can help shift the balance to a more pro-oxidant state," said Maureen Rippe, the author of the study.

BOOKS

CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD
Diaries: Volume One
1939-1960

Edited and introduced by
Katherine Bucknell. 1,048
pages. £25. Methuen. \$40.
HarperCollins.

Reviewed by
Katherine Knorr

YOU would need to be deeply interested in Christopher Isherwood to want to read carefully all 1,000 pages of this book — and this is only Part One. And yet there is much that is wonderful here, notably insight into the Hollywood of the '40s and '50s, so decadent, so gothic, so — old-fashioned.

The diaries begin with Isherwood's departure from Europe on the eve of World War II with his friend W.H. Auden on a French boat called the *Champain*. He was 34. It was a leave-taking that would be harshly criticized by those who stayed behind, notwithstanding Isherwood's

somewhat lame declaration that he had become a pacifist on board the ship, or the reasoning that he set forth in his diary in 1942: "Heinz is in the Nazi army. I wouldn't kill him. Therefore I have no right to kill anybody."

Heinz Nedemeyer was Isherwood's lover during his Berlin years in the late 1920s and early '30s, which would lead to his best and most famous books. "Mr. Norris Changes Trains" and "Goodbye to Berlin" transmuted into stage and screen as "I Am a Camera" and "Cabaret."

That fame allowed him to make a modest living in California as a screenwriter, and to meet and sometimes befriend movie greats like Greta Garbo, David Selznick, a drunk and disorderly Montgomery Clift, Peter Viertel or Charles Laughton. He was close to such expatriates as Aldous Huxley and Gerald Heard — the latter living monastically as far as food and clothes went, but dreaming his out-of-this-world

books on mescaline — and to Igor and Vera Stravinsky, who sound like the most amusing dinner guests of all.

Much of Isherwood's private and diary life revolved around his lovers. He seems from the anecdotal evidence to have had a need to protect younger men — ever younger, as the man with whom he would live his longest and strongest relationship, Don Bachardy, was 30 years his junior. Thus Isherwood records in the diaries with painstaking precision and a mixture of guilt and anger, his difficult times with a series of mildly talented and complicated young men.

The other great pole in Isherwood's life was his long involvement with Hinduism in the Ramakrishna Order, in the person of Swami Prabhavananda of the Vedanta Society of Southern California, based in Hollywood.

From February 1943 to August 1945, he lived in the Vedanta Center, and studied to become a monk. Although he failed in that vocation, he remained close to the swami. The diaries record both the sublime, in the form of meditation and spiritual wisdom, and the human, in the form of gossip and office politics at the temple. Isherwood seems to have been rather good at both. This being California, the temple attracted religious dilettantes from the movie business, enough to keep Swami in the Hollywood loop and complicate Isherwood's relationship with various deeply superficial people.

As the years went on, Isherwood chose, despite the misgivings of many of his friends, to remain in the United States. It depressed him to go back to England, where his mother and brother lived in increasing and self-inflicted squalor. Although he would become American, he kept the outsider's eye, and this makes for many incisively drawn portraits — of a rich woman he describes as "haystack haired," of a Hollywood dinner party: "We drank champagne out of small Coca-Cola glasses. Slices of pie were served simultaneously with big drug-store cups of coffee. That's so typically Hollywood — super-swagger surroundings, and then something that reminds you of a Baptist mission station in the wilds of China."

He sets down lots of funny and terrible stories, including

another page for the Samuel Goldwyn lore book. Isherwood had been taken for the usual Goldwyn ride whereby Goldwyn hired and fired lots of writers for the same script, then tried to cover his traces. The producer/director Eddie Knopf, after leaving the Goldwyn studio himself, told Isherwood the following story, according to a 1939 diary entry:

"Goldwyn: If we've got to use his characters, we must take care he doesn't use any of ours. Nothing that's in the original script — (looking through the outline of our story) What's this about the Gestapo? He can't use the Gestapo. Knopf: But, Sam, the Gestapo isn't our property. Goldwyn (after deep thought, sadly): No — I guess you're right, Eddie. It isn't."

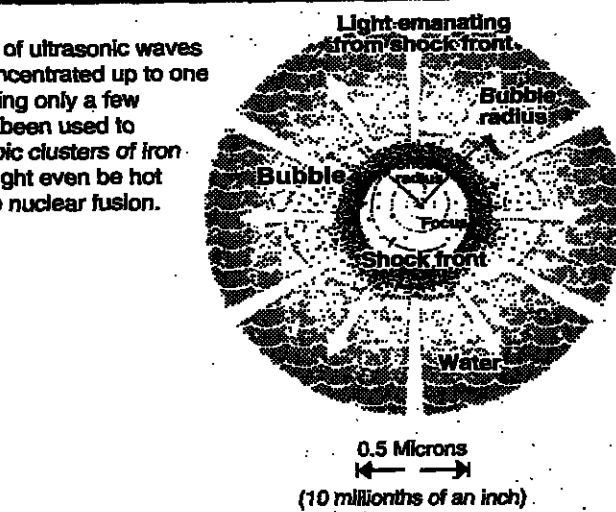
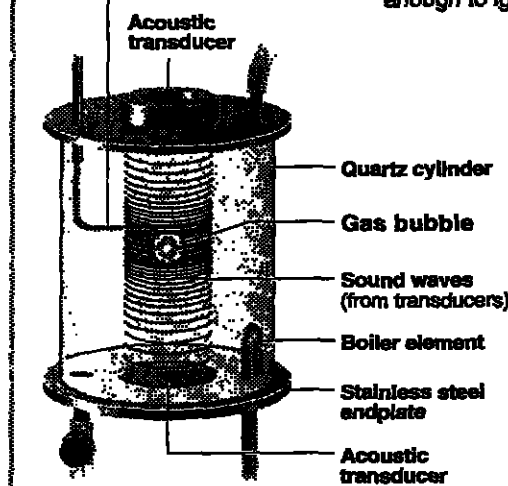
Isherwood was attracted to Bohemianism and yet ultimately repelled by it. When he visited Paul Bowles in North Africa, the drugs made him sick and unhappy. And he saw the California scene for what it was: "Last night we went ... to a couple of beamish bars. ... The Venice West is tacky. ... The Renaissance (on the Strip) is quite grand. Both are enormously depressing. 'Cool' seems to be an extra odd degree of being 'square.'"

He is wonderful at describing his surroundings, the sordid and the beautiful, the bars and the beaches, the spiritual and physical acidity of the American West. Of Palm Springs in 1942, he writes: "All around the village and the airfield with its winking light, spreads the untidy desert with its dry silvery bushes alive in the heat, as seaweed is alive in the sea. In the late afternoon, when Palm Springs is already in shadow, the mountain range across the valley turns mauve and violet in the setting sunshine. It shines in the distance like the landscape of another planet, unearthly, beautiful and dead."

As the years passed, he frequently complained of feeling old. Throughout his life he was plagued by the classic cycle of self-destructiveness and self-loathing; this seemed to get worse, and the solace from Hinduism to recede. "It is so terrible, so criminal to be unhappy, the way I'm unhappy now," he wrote in 1951. Still, this volume ends on a cheerful note, on his 56th birthday: "... everything is all right today — it really is, I believe."

Harnessing Power Of Tiny Bubbles

In sonoluminescence, acoustic energy in the form of ultrasonic waves pumped into oscillating microscopic bubbles is concentrated up to one trillion times to produce pulses of brilliant light lasting only a few trillionths of a second. The phenomenon has now been used to make microscopic clusters of iron atoms, and it might even be hot enough to ignite nuclear fusion.



Most physicists believe sonoluminescent flashes occur when a microscopic bubble suddenly collapses and its spherical wall implodes on itself. This is believed to cause the shock compression of any gas within, very briefly making it hotter than the Sun's surface.

Source: Dr. Seth J. Putterman, U.C.L.A.

The New York Times

Riddle of Luminous Bubbles

By Malcolm W. Browne

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For 62 years physicists have marveled at the mysterious light emitted by microscopic bubbles when liquids are bombarded by blasts of high-pitched sound.

The cause of this eerie blue light remains uncertain, but experiments capable of solving some of the mysteries of the phenomenon, known as sonoluminescence, now seem within reach.

Moreover, sonoluminescence is beginning to find practical applications. Speculation in recent years that sonoluminescence might one day be used to force hydrogen atoms to fuse and yield immense amounts of energy has so far come to nothing.

But some less spectacular applications of the phenomenon than hydrogen fusion have turned up, and sonoluminescence, once a mere laboratory curiosity, is maturing as a serious and useful branch of science.

At a meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Hawaii last month, scientists presented rival theories in an effort to explain sonoluminescence. The organizer of the symposium, Dr. Robert E. Apfel of Yale University, collected 11 different hypotheses submitted by physicists specializing in sonoluminescence, along with their proposals for experiments to test them.

Fresh experimental results will highlight two major meetings on sonoluminescence scheduled for 1997.

Certain features of sonoluminescence are clear. One is the tremendous concentration of energy the phenomenon can produce: acoustic energy in the form of ultrasonic waves pumped into oscillating microscopic bubbles is concentrated up to 1 trillion times to produce pulses of brilliant light lasting only a few trillionths of a second.

The violent collapse of such bubbles produces effects other than light. A closely related phenomenon called cavitation is a serious problem for boats using high-speed propellers. If the blade of a propeller is moving through water too fast for the water to keep up with it, a vacuum created by the moving blade takes the form of myriad short-lived bubbles. The continuous collapse of these bubbles almost as fast as they form imparts tremendous destructive energy to a cavitating blade, and the propeller rapidly wears away unless it has been specially designed to reduce cavitation effects.

TWO somewhat different forms of sonoluminescence are known. In one, an intense sound "field" created by the equivalent of loudspeakers surrounding a test chamber causes clouds of microscopic bubbles to form spontaneously and collapse. The bubbling

liquid in the chamber emits a steady sonoluminescent glow.

In the "single bubble" version of sonoluminescence, one small bubble is boiled into existence by a hot wire immersed in water, and the bubble is then acoustically moored (or "levitated") at the center of the chamber, where "sound" waves immobilize it and force it to pulsate rhythmically. As long as the sound continues to excite it, the rapidly expanding and collapsing bubble emits pulses of light in time with the frequency of the sound, up to 100,000 times a second. (Sound of such high frequency is far above the human hearing limit of about 15,000 cycles per second.)

Most physicists believe that sonoluminescent flashes occur when a microscopic bubble suddenly collapses and its spherical wall implodes on itself at several times the speed of sound.

This is believed to cause the shock compression of any gas within the bubble, very briefly heating it to a temperature higher than that of the Sun's surface. At this temperature, the compressed gas radiates both visible light and high-energy ultraviolet radiation.

No one has yet proved by photographs or other means that shock waves are the cause of the phenomenon, although the indirect evidence for shock waves is strong.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Walker, in sign language
4 Thanksgiving dish
7 Engagement

13 Baritone in Rabelais' "Mirour"
14 First or second, e.g.
15 Habitats

16 With 63-Across, theme of this puzzle
18 See 6-Down
19 Xiviera
20 Hollander book

21 Neighbor of Uganda
22 Boston suburb
23 6/6/44
24 Gung-ho
25 Result of a firing

26 Corporate hotshot
27 Patriot of 1776
28 Common game show consolation prize

29 Meerie
30 Out of town
31 "Fantasy Island" prop
32 SE Mexican state

33 Words of Caesar
34 Senseless state
35 "All I gotta do — naturally" (Boyz n' theyz lyrics)

37 "The Jeffersons" co-star
38 It's often picked up in bars
39 See 16-Across

40 The Continent
41 Sonnets
42 City on Guanabara Bay
43 Made up (for) sights

44 Door word
45 Results of some handshakes
46 Nobel Prize

3 Fall precipitately
4 Cry harshly
5 "... and make it snappy!"
6 With 18-Across, a two-line Oscar winner

7 Bucknell footballer
8 Lower in Dryden's "All for Love"
9 Ismail resident

10 Cherry or apple
11 Lecherous look
12 Psychic's claim
14 Not so splay

17 Harry James' — the "Crabtree Dream"
20 Triangle part: Abbr.

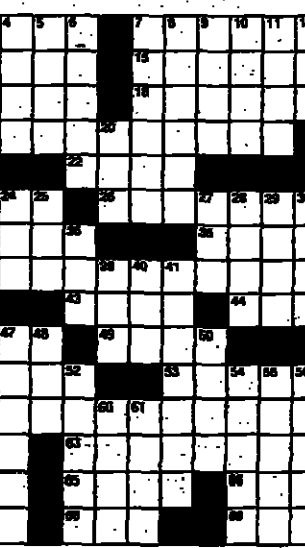
24 Borden weapon
25 Cry of victory
27 Hott 8 dance
28 Flag down a cab

29 Colleague of Claudia and Naomi
30 Lucy's husband
31 Tons

32 Nintendo rival
33 Mint or saga
34 1880's insignia
35 Shade of green

36 Have bills
37 Turner of note
41 Daily since 1851, briefly
42 Minor accident result

47 Searched thoroughly
48 Medical suffix
49 Soyuz launcher
50 Fish
51 Walker-upper
52 Whoopi, in "The Color Purple"



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 31

JAMES MEARA AGRI
ONEL ETHEL BLOB
BEGIN THE BEGGINE
SWAIN MIKEBAG
EMIL DORR
SAG UNIT STATED
EGO TROIS BADA
WALTZINGMATHIDA
EVER SEEN KIT
REMISS RAKE YES
ANTE RACK
APPLUENT ANST
BEARBARRELPOKA
BEAU LOUWE REIF
ATTN SLEET RENT

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 6 ♠ 7 ♠ 8 ♠ 9 ♠ 10 ♠ 11 ♠ 12 ♠ 13 ♠ 14 ♠ 15 ♠ 16 ♠ 17 ♠ 18 ♠ 19 ♠ 20 ♠ 21 ♠ 22 ♠ 23 ♠ 24 ♠ 25 ♠ 26 ♠ 27 ♠ 28 ♠ 29 ♠ 30 ♠ 31 ♠ 32 ♠ 33 ♠ 34 ♠ 35 ♠ 36 ♠ 37 ♠ 38 ♠ 39 ♠ 40 ♠ 41 ♠ 42 ♠ 43 ♠ 44 ♠ 45 ♠ 46 ♠ 47 ♠ 48 ♠ 49 ♠ 50 ♠ 51 ♠ 52 ♠

West led the heart king.

Now the last trump forced West to part with the club king, and Eisenstein took two diamond winners. He then led a club, and scored his club queen at the finish for 12 tricks and all the match points.

A Space for Thought.

International Herald Tribune

UCEL 132.851	3-MONTH EUTROLIA (CLIPPED)	Aluminum, lb	1000y	Prvw.
UCEL 132.855	1/1 million - 93.5	Copper, electrolytic lb	0.667	0.691
UCEL 132.855	1/1 million - 93.5	Iron FOS, ton	1.05	1.06
54	Mar77 93.5	Lead, lb	167.00	167.00
51	Mar77 93.6	Steel, may or	0.7	0.59
(CLIPPED)	Mar77 94.13	Shets (sacrod), ton	4.73	4.37
	Dec77 94.15	Tin, lb	109.17	109.17
	Jan78 94.17	Zinc, lb	3.8924	3.8949
	Mar78 94.19		0.5784	0.5911
- 0.01 218.256	Mar78 94.19			
- 0.01 218.256	Mar78 94.19			

Int'l Financial Futures Exchange, Int'l Petroleum Exchange.

EUROPE

Santander, a New Conquistador, Looks West

By John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

MADRID — What Spain's monarchs lost in the 16th century, Emilio and Ana Patricia Botin are determined to recoup in the waning years of the 20th: Latin America.

Mr. Botin, 62, chairman of Banco Santander SA, Spain's biggest bank, is on the move all over the globe. But, recognizing that Europe is "overbanked" and that Santander will never be more than a second-tier player in Asia and North America, he is devoting most of his energy to expanding in Spain's former colonies in the Western Hemisphere, where he says Santander has a shot at becoming No. 1.

Breaking with Spain's patriarchal tradition, Mr. Botin has enlisted his American-educated daughter, Ana Patricia, 35, to help lead the charge. Together they orchestrated an acquisition binge by Santander throughout Latin America in 1996.

In April, the bank paid \$495 million for a 51 percent stake in Banco Osorio & La Union SA, the largest bank in Chile. In October, it took control of Mexico's fourth-largest bank, Banco Mexicano SA, for \$425 million, and just before Christmas, it snatched up a 90 percent share of Banco de Venezuela SA, that country's second-largest bank, for \$338 million and simultaneously acquired 55 percent of Banco Comercial Antioqueno de Colombia SA for \$151 million.

While the father-daughter pairing may be unusual for Spain, the lure of Latin America is not. The cream of Spanish business, sensing the same opportunity to exploit cultural and linguistic ties, has been rushing in as governments have liberalized their economies.

In recent years, Spain's national telecommunications giant, Telefonos de Espana SA, has cut a broad swath through the region, forging joint ventures and buying shares of local companies; so have some of the country's biggest television companies, including Television Espanola SA, one of the world's largest producers of Spanish-language programming.

Other Spanish banks, meanwhile, have been pushing hard on Santander's heels.

In December, for example, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA, the No. 2 Spanish bank, took over Venezuela's largest bank, Banco Provincial SA, in a deal valued at

\$300 million.

"Our policy is, ultimately, to have 50 percent of earnings through Latin America," Mr. Botin said. "In 1996, it was near 20 percent, and in 1997 we expect it will be 25 percent. By 1998 and 1999, I hope, it will be 30 percent."

Ana Botin also heads Santander's ambitious push into the highly profitable, if extremely competitive, world of investment banking.

There the Botins hope to carve out a Latin American niche in a business dominated by American and European giants. In just the past five years, the investment-banking share of Santander's net income has climbed to nearly 12 percent from less than 3 percent.

Santander has become the No. 1 money-market and pension-fund manager, as well as the leading stockbroker, in several Latin American countries, including Argentina and Chile.

Its New York-based brokerage operation, Santander Investment Securities, ranked second among firms trading in Latin American stocks in the first 11 months of 1996, with nearly 14 percent of the market, trailing only Merrill Lynch & Co., which had 16 percent, according to Datablock, a Boston-based statistics company. In 1995, Santander ranked seventh.

"We like fee income," said Juan Rodriguez Lacort, the head of Santander's global banking division. "That's the strategic way forward."

Mr. Botin had long been grooming his daughter, one of six children, for a career at Santander despite Spanish banking's overwhelmingly male culture. He sent her to the United States in the late 1970s to earn a degree in economics at Bryn Mawr College and to put in a seven-year stint at J.P. Morgan & Co., specializing in risk management for corporate clients and debt conversion for Latin American governments.

In 1988, she left J.P. Morgan to become chief executive of Santander's investment-banking subsidiary, from which she has engineered much of the bank's Latin American invasion.

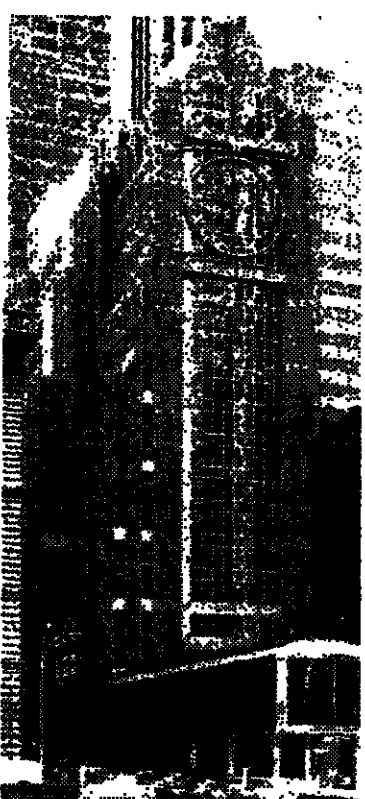
Father and daughter are both dark and handsome, and both impeccably dressed, but their personal manners differ. He is serene, takes the large, philosophical view and harbors a deep interest in music and art.

His wife, Paloma, is an accomplished pianist, and paintings from the family art collection, which he oversees, adorn Santander's headquarters — including a magnificent Holy Family by El Greco, which hangs in the lobby. He is also an avid golfer, his youngest daughter, Carmen, is married to Spain's golfing hero, Seve Ballesteros.

Mr. Botin shares many of her father's passions, but unlike him, she is fast-talking, hard-driving, a good saleswoman — traits she probably honed at J.P. Morgan. A fluent English-speaker who lives in Madrid with her husband, also a Santander banker, and her three children, she travels frequently, spending time in London and New York but also frequently darning off to Latin America.

Some bankers say that, like most of Mr. Botin's investments, the bet he placed on his daughter has more than paid off.

In some ways, the drive into Latin America represents a return to



Santander's New York offices.

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INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

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In some ways, the drive into Latin America represents a return to

Santander's past. Founded in 1857 in the northern Spanish port of the same name, the bank cut its teeth financing trade between Spain and its colonies. Mr. Botin's father and grandfather were important shareholders and bank executives.

The family dynasty has flourished even as ownership of the bank has spread outside Spain, with nearly half the bank's equity held by foreign shareholders, mainly large British and American funds.

Ms. Botin's younger brother is an executive in the commercial-banking division, and the chairman's younger brother, Jaime Botin, sits on Santander's board. Jaime Botin is also president of Bankinter, a Spanish retail bank that Santander founded in the 1970s with Bank of America but is now independent.

"People like to say that at Santander, Botin is first, Botin is second, and Botin is third, and that after Botin, there is Ana Botin," said Jesus Rivas Cabreria, editor of the financial newspaper Negocios.

That may be something of an exaggeration. In 1996, Mr. Botin hired a powerful outsider, Francisco Luzon, former head of Argentina Corp., Bancomer de Espana, a government-controlled banking concern, to help formulate Santander's global strategy, and some see him as a possible successor to Mr. Botin.

Luzon's role might be, Mr. Botin said, "The sky is the limit."

Santander's expansion beyond its borders began in earnest in the 1980s. Awash with profit from Spain's industrial rebirth after the death of Francisco Franco and the country's entry into the European Community, Santander first forged a strategic alliance with Royal Bank of Scotland PLC.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Botin set his sights on the United States, acquiring gradually a 23 percent share of First Fidelity, a New Jersey bank. When First Fidelity was snapped up shortly thereafter by First Union of Charlotte, North Carolina, Mr. Botin was left with a 9 percent share of First Union and a profit of more than \$1 billion.

Santander is also looking to other growing markets. It opened offices in the Philippines in 1996, and Mr. Botin said the company hoped to generate 10 percent of its worldwide revenue in Asia by 2000.

In Eastern Europe, it is using its German consumer-banking subsidi-

ary, CC Bank, to expand consumer-loan services into formerly Communist countries, where there is vigorous demand for cars, homes and refrigerators, among other items.

But Mr. Botin is not neglecting the home front, either. Santander's takeover in 1994 of the troubled Banco Espanol de Credito SA in a transaction valued at \$2 billion nudged it into top position of Spain's market leader.

To go along with its links with Bank of Scotland and its flourishing consumer-credit business in Germany, Santander recently acquired a 3 percent stake in Italy's largest bank, Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino SpA.

The Botins, however, seem to know their global ambitions are not without risk. For all Santander's elevated position in Spain and Latin America, it is a relative dwarf in investment banking.

With its limited resources, it must compete with such European giants as Union Bank of Switzerland and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell subsidiary, as well as Wall Street firms such as Merrill Lynch, Salomon Brothers Inc. and Bear, Stearns & Co. Some of its rivals, in fact, say they doubt Santander's claim that it is making a profit in global investment banking.

Moreover, for all of Latin America's recent embrace of democracy and capitalism, many countries remain vulnerable to political instability and economic upheaval. Jose Sevilla, an analyst at Merrill Lynch in Madrid who follows Santander, said the bank also had a big job on its hands in adapting its management style to differing national customs and cultures.

In addition, Mr. Sevilla said, "they have to take a strategic decision about Brazil," the huge and vigorous Portuguese-speaking country where Santander, like many other Spanish banks, remains virtually absent.

Ms. Botin brushes aside such concerns. About six years ago, she said, Santander made a decision to give Latin America priority because that was where it held the best cards.

"We have a universal banking approach; we've been in the region for 50 years," she said. "We believe we have key advantages. One of them is timing, which in these places is critical, since business cycles are much more pronounced. Another is people on the ground."

PARIS — The chairman of Air France, Christian Blanc, wants his company to be privatized to shake off the state's "Jacobin and Colbertist" role, which he says has left France ill-prepared for the deregulation of European air transport in April.

In remarks Tuesday to the Saint-Simon Foundation, a political club, Mr. Blanc noted that the French state owned the national airline, the national railway system, the airport authority and the country's biggest aerospace manufacturer, Aerospatiale.

"In a word, it is constantly judge and party to the case," he said, "and this means that while it gets into everything, seeking compromises everywhere, minimizing risks, it is not a strategist in anything."

He added, "Our Jacobin

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
2550	4100	2250
2550	4000	2175
2550	3800	2100
2550	3700	2025
2550	3600	1950
2550	3500	1875
2550	3400	1800
2550	3300	1725
2550	3200	1650
2550	3100	1575
2550	3000	1500
2550	2900	1425
2550	2800	1350
2550	2700	1275
2550	2600	1200
2550	2500	1125
2550	2400	1050
2550	2300	975
2550	2200	900
2550	2100	825
2550	2000	750
2550	1900	675
2550	1800	600
2550	1700	525
2550	1600	450
2550	1500	375
2550	1400	300
2550	1300	225
2550	1200	150
2550	1100	75
2550	1000	0

Source: Reuters International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- French citizens started 1997 strongly in favor of a single European currency, as a survey published by the weekly L'Express showed 62 percent of those responding hoping that progress toward a single currency would continue; but 55 percent thought Prime Minister Alain Juppe, a supporter of the currency, would lose his job this year.
- Saudi Arabia, flush with oil money, unveiled a 1997 budget projecting a 20 percent jump in expenditures, to 181 billion riyals (\$48.26 billion). The budget, coming after five fiscally cautious years, suggests the government expects crude oil prices to remain firm, having reached their highest levels since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
- Morton International Inc. of Chicago plans to buy a controlling stake in Compagnie des Salins du Midi et des Salines de l'Est, a French salt producer, for about \$290 million and Pulverlat SpA, an Italian coatings company, for a price that was not disclosed.
- Russia recorded a trade surplus of nearly \$40 billion in 1996, as imports of \$86.5 billion exceeded exports of \$46.6 billion. Its two-way trade total of \$133.1 billion showed a rise of 5.2 percent from the previous year as gas exports rose 4 percent and oil exports climbed 3.5 percent.
- Finland's unemployment rate in November totaled 15.9 percent, up from 15.3 percent in October but down from 16.7 percent a year earlier.

Air France Chief Decries State's Role in Industry

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MERGERS: Japan Catches the Fever - Again

Continued from Page 9

unit to Canada's Seagram Inc., the value of the 339 deals for which details were made public was 1.27 trillion yen, up 13 percent from 1996.

The biggest number of deals was completed in 1990, when there were 753 mergers and acquisitions.

"I think it's fair to say that Japan's M&A market has come back to life again," said Toru Nagano, general manager at Daiwa Securities' strategic advisers department, which helps set up mergers and acquisitions and monitors the market.

"That we had more than 600 deals for the first time since 1991, when the market was booming, is significant."

Of the 614 deals completed in 1996, nearly

half were mergers and acquisitions in which both companies were Japanese, and many involved companies belonging to the same group of businesses.

Last month, Nomura Securities Inc. said its two asset-management affiliates would merge to raise competitiveness and cut costs ahead of the sweeping deregulation of Japan's financial markets expected by 2001.

Just over 40 percent of the merger-and-acquisition deals involved Japanese companies buying foreign ones. Japanese companies acquired a taste for international acquisitions in the 1980s as a way of diversifying and expanding overseas and are still active despite a string of spectacular losses, including Matsushita's acquisition and subsequent sale of the bulk of the Hollywood film-maker MCA Inc.

Heady Outlook for Champagne

Bloomberg Business News

PARIS — French champagne makers are finding a reason to celebrate as they look ahead to brisk sales and stable grape prices between now and 2000.

"We would anticipate better consumer confidence in France and Germany in the next few years," said Jonathan Goble, a drinks analyst at BZW Ltd. in Paris.

Germany is a key market for champagne companies. The United Kingdom is the second-largest export market, followed by the United States and Switzerland.

"A reasonable man would assume that demand in the year 2000 should surpass all previous records," Mr. Goble said.

The past year was "turning out to be a record," said Lorson Daniel, a representative

for the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne. "Excluding any catastrophes," he said, "we're sure to reach" sales records. That was welcome news for two of the world's largest champagne makers, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA and Remy Cointreau SA, which expect to see bigger profits as grape prices are held down.

"Higher volumes, given stable prices, will result in higher profits as surely as day follows night," Mr. Goble said. "It's a glimmer of good news in an environment where bad news seems to travel better."

In volume terms, the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne projected that 250 million bottles of the French region's trademark sparkling wine were sold in 1996, up from the previous year's 246 million.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, Dec. 31
Prices in local currencies.
High Low Close Prev.

Tel Aviv
High Low Close Prev.

Markets Closed
Many stock markets were closed Tuesday for a holiday.

Hong Kong
High Low Close Prev.

London
High Low Close Prev.

Madrid
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Mexico
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Montreal
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Paris
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NYSE

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close

Unadjusted prices, not reflecting late trading activity.
The Associated Press.

Symbol	Price	Change
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IBM	100.00	+0.12
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Microsoft	40.00	+0.12
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Apple	35.00	+0.12
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Oracle	25.00	+0.12
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Sun	20.00	+0.12
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HP	15.00	+0.12
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Motorola	10.00	+0.12
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Intel	5.00	+0.12
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AMD	4.00	+0.12
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Nvidia	3.00	+0.12
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ATI	2.00	+0.12
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3Com	1.00	+0.12
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Logitech	0.50	+0.12
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Perceptics	0.25	+0.12
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WebTV	0.12	+0.12
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EarthLink	0.06	+0.12
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Technology

Unadjusted prices, not reflecting late trading activity.
The Associated Press.

Symbol	Price	Change
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IBM	100.00	+0.12
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Microsoft	40.00	+0.12
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Apple	35.00	+0.12
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Oracle	25.00	+0.12
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Sun	20.00	+0.12
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HP	15.00	+0.12
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Motorola	10.00	+0.12
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Intel	5.00	+0.12
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AMD	4.00	+0.12
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Nvidia	3.00	+0.12
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ATI	2.00	+0.12
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3Com	1.00	+0.12
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WORLD ROUNDUP



Moin Kahn, Pakistan's wicket-keeper, trying to catch the ball off Greg Blewett's attempted sweep.

Australia In a Spin

CRICKET Pakistan used four spin bowlers in its one-day international against Australia at Sydney and bowled the home team out for 199 to set up a four-wicket victory. Australia batted first and scored rapidly but was bowled out in 47.1 overs. Pakistan reached 203 for 6 wickets with 4.3 overs to spare. Steve Waugh was Australia's top scorer with 42. Saqlain Mushtaq took three wickets for 23 and ran out Mark Taylor and Tom Moody with direct hits on the stumps. Shahid Afridi, Pakistan's teenage opener, hit a brutal 34 off 27 balls. Then veterans Amir Sohail (52) and Jaz Ahmed (58) saw Pakistan home. In Harare, Zimbabwe achieved its first one-day international series victory Wednesday when it beat England by six runs. Chasing a victory target of 135 runs in 42 overs after rain delayed the start of its innings, England finished on 179 for seven wickets to give the home side an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the best-of-three series. Zimbabwe spinner Paul Strang dismissed top scorer John Crawley (73), Mike Atherton (25) and Ronnie Irani to finish with three for 24 as England collapsed from a comfortable 137 for three in the 34th over. Andy Flower had held the Zimbabwe innings together with a composed 63. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

NFL Lures Juniors

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Trevor Pryce, a defensive end with Clemson, has decided to bypass his senior year and enter the NFL draft. "I'm thinking I'll be a high draft pick if things fall right," he said. Juniors Tremaine Mack and Kenard Lang will leave Miami for a shot at the NFL, university officials said. Mack, a safety, was named most valuable player in the Carquest Bowl. The 6-foot-3, 255-pound Lang is considered one of the best college defensive ends. During the regular season he had 11½ sacks. "The NFL people are telling me I should go in the first or second round, and I think I'm ready," Lang said. Tony Gonzalez, a tight end at California, said he will forgo his senior season to enter the draft. Gonzalez led the nation's tight ends with 44 receptions and 699 yards. He is also a power forward for Cal's basketball team. (AP)

European Players Shine In All-Star Basketball

A Motivation Tactic, the American Way

By Ian Thomson
International Herald Tribune

ISTANBUL — The large room went dark, and a few twirling spotlights began dancing the floor to a bass music so enormous as to make your eyeballs rattle. Then the best basketball players in Europe came trotting out in a Wizard of Oz sort of way, each one lacking some vital piece, you would have thought. But when the all-star game began they were playing as if they were Americans — playing the American game that naturally, that creatively.

The first FIBA EuroStars game — the name bears no relation to the Channel Tunnel — ended in a revelatory 117-114 victory by the East over the West. It had no bearing on the standings, yet this game might turn out to be more important than all the shards of domestic championships and European cups put together. For one splendid Monday night, European basketball realized all that it had going for it and what it could still become. The American players came to this understanding about two decades ago, which is one of the reasons why they have become household stars in their own land (and beyond), and the Europeans have not.

"For the players, everything has been about trying to make money — well, almost everything," explained the Russian center Yevgeni Kissurine, who is playing for Cibona Zagreb this season. "You win the game, you get your bonus, and the fans just watch what the team has offered them. Now with this all-star game we can have another goal, which is to appeal to the fans. You get paid for playing basketball, but for you to get a kickback from the fans makes you feel much better."

He was saying that a simple newspaper all-star ballot answered by just 60,000 fans across Europe this fall had created a new motivation for the players. Imagine — the players had no reason to appeal to the fans? From the American perspective that's like leaving flour out of the cake recipe. Some European players have been natural entertainers, Toni Kukoc for instance; but too often basketball in Europe looks as if it's being played in ankle-deep mud.

Basketball is the most insecure of European's major sports. A player's work in Europe, no matter how grand, will always be cast in miniature when compared to the ubiquitous National Basketball Association. Even the

greatest European players express a sense of humility in the presence of Americans. That humility has been part of their strength, motivating them to drive up the quality of play outside America. Just as surely, however, the European professionals have ceded control of their game to the coaches. Perhaps the NBA is a stars' league — the current cycle of NBA defense-mindedness set aside — because its players know they are the best and aren't afraid to act like it. Maybe the European game has become dominated by coaches partly because the players haven't been quite sure of themselves.

The EuroStars game was an attempt by FIBA, the international basketball federation, to make stars of its players, to open a direct line between them and the fans. Each team, West and East, was limited to two expatriate American players. The fans chose six Europeans and one American per team; the rest were hand-picked by FIBA, which then commissioned a special EuroStars dance anthem and a rock-concert-styled light show for the pregame introductions.

The first player brought on stage was Ronnie Bayer, a Belgian who plays guard for Sunair-Oostende. He stood smiling self-consciously, hands behind his back like best man at a wedding.

The most influential player early on was the native Macedonian, Petar Naumovski, 28, who might be the best player in Europe this season. Naumovski was representing the East not because of his nationality, but because he stars for the Istanbul-based club Efes Pilsen as a recently naturalized Turk. He finished with an immaculate 16 points, 7 rebounds, 7 assists and no turnovers, playing squarely and without hurry. Yet the most valuable player award went to his American teammate, David Rivers, the former Notre Dame and NBA guard whose seven turnovers were happily neglected by the European media voters.

Thanks to Rivers (19 points, 3 steals), the mustachioed Russian guard Sergei Bazarevich of CSKA Moscow, and the 34-year-old American Delaney Rudd (8 assists) of the surprising European contender Villeurbanne of Lyon, the tempo was whipped up as if there were jockeys on fast horses. Just before the fourth quarter — they were playing in 12-minute NBA periods — Rudd won the three-point shooting contest against the Turkish bomber Harun Erdenay of Ulker Spor, the local club that organized the weekend to just the right spirit.



Carlton Myers of the West team soaring to score in the EuroStars game.

Wisely, there was no dunking contest. The only contenders would have been the West teammates Conrad McRae and Merko Milic. McRae, 25, is the outgoing American star of Team-system Bologna. He was allowed by three chasing East defenders to slam a loose ball behind his head early in the third quarter. Milic, the 19-year-old blond Slovenian of Smelt Olimpija, will be the next star of European basketball. He was reportedly counseled by several American scouts to stay in Europe and play professionally, rather than mature through the American college system.

As for the game itself, the Yugoslav center Zoran Savic of Kinder Bologna cleaned up around the basket for 30 points, to bring the West close, but Naumovski clinched victory with a runner over McRae.

Rivers, after accepting his most-valuable trophy, said, "Maybe when I played in France, in the French all-star game, the tempo was this fast. But then the level of talent wasn't as intense." But when was the last time he had played so freely in a game that mattered? He couldn't remember — after all, it's been five years since he left the NBA.

Stallings Bows Out With Bowl Victory Over Michigan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TAMPA, Florida — Alabama's defense wouldn't let Gene Stallings' retirement party end on a sour note.

Dwayne Rudd returned a fourth-quarter interception 58 yards for a touchdown, and the 16th-ranked Crimson Tide closed out the Stallings era with a 17-14 victory over No. 15 Michigan in the Outback Bowl Wednesday.

Alabama's players hoisted the retiring coach onto their shoulders for a ride to midfield before Stallings officially turned over the reins to defensive coordinator Mike Dubose.

Michigan, leading 6-3 in the fourth period and threatening inside the Crimson Tide 15-yard line, appeared to be in control, then Alabama's Kelvin Sigler hit Brian Griese as the quarterback released a pass, and the ball floated into the air just beyond the line of scrimmage.

Rudd, a 245-pound (111-kilogram) linebacker, made the interception and took off up the sideline with a convoy of teammates leading the way to put

Alabama ahead 10-6. Dubose takes over a program that averaged 10 victories a season in seven years under Stallings, who departs with a 70-16-1 record at Alabama.

Tennessee 48, Northwestern 28 In Orlando, Peyton Manning threw for 408 yards and four touchdowns and ran for one TD as No. 9 Tennessee beat No. 11 Northwestern in the Citrus Bowl.

Northwestern (9-3) fell behind 21-0 in the first quarter but rallied to tie the score with three touchdowns in the second period. A touchdown and a field goal put Tennessee ahead 31-21 at halftime, and the Vols scored again with an interception on the third play of the second half.

North Carolina 20, West Virginia 13 Oscar Davenport threw for one score and ran for another in his first career start as the No. 12 Tar Heels beat the No. 25 Mountaineers in the Gator Bowl.

North Carolina cornerback Dre' Bly intercepted his 12th and 13th passes of the season as North Carolina picked off three passes and recovered a fumble

while its offense lost the ball only once. Davenport completed 11 of his first 14 passes as the Tar Heels (10-2) opened a 17-3 halftime lead against America's No. 1-ranked defense.

Michigan 41, Virginia Tech 21 In Miami on Tuesday, Nebraska overwhelmed 10th-ranked Virginia Tech to win the Orange Bowl.

Nebraska survived three touchdown passes by Virginia Tech's agile quarterback Jim Druckenmiller. Druckenmiller's first TD, a 19-yard pass to Marcus Parker, gave the Hokies a 7-0 lead.

A field goal and a touchdown by Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost put the Cornhuskers ahead 10-7, a lead that grew to 17-7 when Druckenmiller fumbled and defensive tackle Jason Peter ran 31 yards for a touchdown. But Druckenmiller finished an eight-play drive with a pass to Shawn Scales, cutting Nebraska's lead to 17-14 at halftime.

After Damon Benning ran for a touchdown on Nebraska's first possession of the second half, Druckenmiller threw a

33-yard touchdown pass to Cornelius White, but that was the end of Tech's threat.

Auburn 32, Army 29 In Shreveport, Louisiana, Army (10-2) scored 22 unanswered points in the fourth quarter but lost when J. Parker, who had made 17 consecutive field goals inside the 30, missed a 27-yard attempt with 33 seconds left.

Until then, it had been all Auburn and Darnell Craig, the Auburn quarterback, who set Independence Bowl and Auburn school passing records against the Cadets' ninth-ranked defense.

Stanford 38, Michigan St. 0 In El Paso, Texas, Stanford (7-5) ripped through Michigan State (6-6) for 495 yards in the Sun Bowl.

Howard 27, Southern 24 Jason Decuir kicked the winning field goal, and Curtis Jones made a game-saving interception at the goal line with 42 seconds left to give Howard (10-2) a come-from-behind victory over Southern (7-5) in the Heritage Bowl in Atlanta. (LAT, NYT, AP)

RIVALS: For Florida Foes, the Sugar Bowl Is Anything but Sweet

Continued from Page 1

son — and that a victory would mean a national championship for the No. 1-ranked Seminoles and perhaps for the No. 3 Gators.

But the two teams have met a second time in a single season before, in the game that resulted in the brawl that chased Mrs. Fleece up the staircase.

This particular game is more personal and more important than ever because honor has been assaulted. Florida's coach, Steve Spurrier, known to Seminole fans and some other foes as the Evil Genius, tossed a lighted match into a lake of gasoline when he contended that the Florida State coach, Bobby Bowden, had told Seminole players to injure Florida's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, Danny Wuerffel, in the game at Tallahassee.

Making an accusation of dirty football is about the worst thing one coach can say to another, short of calling him a sissy.

"Bobby Bowden is a fine man," said Fanita Meehan, an interior designer from Tarpon Springs whose home is adorned with a stuffed gator head, a hatchet buried in its skull. "That other guy," she said of Spurrier, "pitches fits on television." She is referring to Spurrier's habit of flinging things on the sideline when all is not going well.

Even the jokes seem a little meaner this time.

QUESTION: Why do Florida State graduates put their diplomas on the dashboards of their cars?

ANSWER: So they can park in the handicap spots.

Tens of thousands of Gator-haters and "hole-bashers" will be in New Orleans by Thursday, but the name-calling started weeks ago.

New Orleans, besieged by the latest in a wave of murders and other violent crimes not too concerned about the gathering clouds, say hotel clerks, taxi drivers and bartenders.

The city will just absorb them, like any other storm.

QUESTION: What do you get when you go slow through Gainesville?

ANSWER: A diploma.

The oyster bar at Felix's restaurant in the Quarter was thick with cigar smoke and lined with empty shells on Monday afternoon. Seminole fans stood at the bar, their backs to a table of seated Gator fans.

"We don't hate the Gators," said Steve Kalenich, a Florida State fan from Fort Lauderdale whose father played for the Seminoles in the 1950s. "We just hate Steve Spurrier."

"No," said Evans, the real estate broker from Jacksonville, standing a few feet away. "We hate the Gators, too."

The table of Gators endured it with chilly civility. "We have to live with them year round," said Bill Brannon, a lawyer from Lake City.

QUESTION: What does a University of Florida graduate say to a Florida State

2 Cowboys Are Accused In a Rape

Dallas Police Checking On Irvin and Williams

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service

The Dallas Cowboys, the Super Bowl champions, have been rocked by an allegation of rape from a 23-year-old woman that was made days before a National Football League playoff game.

The woman told the police that she was raped Sunday night by one of the team's star offensive linemen, Erik Williams, and an unidentified man while another star, receiver Michael Irvin, held a gun to her head.

The Dallas police said they received a complaint from the woman Monday and that they executed a search warrant Tuesday morning at Williams' home in North Dallas, during which they confiscated a gun and a homemade videotape that they said depicted a sexual encounter.

But even as they confirmed that an investigation was under way, the police said they had no plans to arrest either player. They declined to say if the tape had shed any light on the allegation by the woman, who remained unidentified.

"It appeared to be two men having sex with a woman," said Sergeant James Chandler of the Dallas police. "We think it may be Sunday night's incident but we're reviewing the videotape." Lieutenant David Goiden said the woman had bruises and scrapes on her body.

At the Cowboys' training complex, where the team was preparing for Sunday's playoff game against the Carolina Panthers, Irvin angrily denied that he was involved in anything illegal.

"I have not done anything in any way, shape or form to violate my probation," he said Tuesday. "I've done enough bad things to my family and my teammates. But in this case, I have done nothing."

Many details of the incident remained murky, including a statement by the police that the woman might have been working with a local television station that was investigating the Cowboys and their legal troubles, which include drug-possession and sexual-assault charges.

Williams, who was recently released from a two-year probation stemming from a no-contest plea to drunken driving, was charged by the police with rape two years ago. The charges were dropped after the 17-year-old woman who made the original complaint settled out of court and then declined to testify.

Irvin and at least two other players have also reached out-of-court settlements with women who charged them with unwanted sexual advances.

Earlier this year, Irvin was suspended for five games for violating the league's drug policy, after pleading no contest to cocaine-possession charges. He is sitting under the threat of a 20-year prison term if he violates any probation conditions stemming from the plea.

Dave Overton, the news director at KXAS, an NBC affiliate in Dallas, said that a woman who had been a "source" for the television station had frantically called one of its reporters Sunday night and said she had been raped. The reporter, he said, referred her to a federal law-enforcement official, which apparently led to her filing a complaint with the police.

Eagles Are Also Investigated

The Police in the San Francisco suburb of Millbrae are investigating a woman's report that she was sexually assaulted by a Philadelphia Eagles player last weekend at the Westin Hotel, The Associated Press reported.

No charges have been filed, no arrests made but an investigation is continuing, a police spokesman said. Neither the player nor the woman was identified.

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SPORTS

Chelsea Beats Liverpool, 1-0

Reuters
LONDON — A solitary goal by Roberto di Matteo gave Chelsea a 1-0 victory Wednesday over Liverpool, the leader in the English Premier League. Arsenal and Newcastle also won, to narrow the gap at the top of the standings.

Chelsea, crushed 5-1 by Liverpool at Anfield earlier this season, was forced to backpedal for much of the first half. But di Matteo put the

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, played for the first time in more than a year in response to his club's injury problems. Robson, England's former captain, turns 40 later this month.

In Newcastle, Alan Shearer scored the first Premier League goal of 1997, hammering home a volley from a corner after just four minutes against Leeds.

He added a second in the 77th minute, and Les Ferdinand scored a late third to ensure a 3-0 victory for Newcastle, a result that takes them into fourth place.

Manchester United, the reigning champion, remained in third place four points behind Liverpool after a 0-0 draw at home against sixth-place Aston Villa.

Nottingham Forest moved up from the bottom of the standings with a 1-0 victory at West Ham, pushing Southampton into the cellar.

The weather caused three Premier League games to be canceled: fifth-placed Wimbledon at Southampton, Tottenham at Leicester and Sheffield Wednesday at Derby.

Derby's game was called on the advice of the police, who believed it was unsafe for fans to travel to the game. Jim Smith, Derby's manager said, "There is no problem with the pitch but the approach roads to the ground are treacherous."

Fabrizio Ravanelli missed a penalty shot for Middlesbrough, and Arsenal's John Hartson was sent off for foul language.



Liverpool's Robbie Fowler racing for the ball Wednesday as Chelsea's goalkeeper, Frode Grodas, hits the ground.

Washington Beats Hartford Late in Overtime

The Associated Press
Steve Konowalchuk scored with 1:59 left in overtime as the Washington Capitals beat Hartford 3-2 on Wednesday, it was the Whalers' fifth straight road loss.

Konowalchuk was attempting a centering pass from the backboards, but the puck bounced off the pads of goalie Peter Bondra and into the net.

Down 2-0 on a pair of goals by Peter Bondra, the Whalers used a power-play goal by Steven Rice and a short-handed goal by Curtis Leschyshyn to pull even late in the second period. Hartford then killed a five-minute penalty in the third

period to temporarily preserve the tie. Senators 3, Bruins 2 Alexander Daigle's second-period goal gave Ottawa over visiting Boston. It was the Senators first triumph over the Bruins in

NHL Roundup

22 games since rejoining the NHL in the 1992-93 season.

Alexei Yashin and Tom Chorske also scored for the Senators, who were 0-20-1 against Boston in the last four-plus seasons. Boston was the last team Ottawa had not beaten in its modern era.

Mighty Ducks 3, Panthers 0 Goal-tender Guy Hebert stopped 28 shots for his 13th career shutout and fourth this season as Anaheim beat Florida in Miami. It was the Mighty Ducks' first victory ever against the Panthers.

Dmitri Mironov scored a goal and assisted on another as Paul Kariya had two assists for the Mighty Ducks.

The win snapped the Panthers' unbeaten run against Western Conference teams this season and continued their offensive woes. Florida — which has scored only two goals in three games — had an 8-0-3 record against the West.

U.S. Upsets Croatia In Hopman Cup

Compiled by Our Staff from Dispatches

PERTH, Australia — Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin scored a dramatic mixed doubles victory to lift the United States to a 2-1 victory over defending champion Croatia in a Hopman Cup match that finished in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Rubin beat Iva Majoli, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), in the opening men's singles, and a late replacement, Justin Gimelstob, pair took the mixed doubles for forfeit.

Martina Hingis had earlier given Switzerland a 1-0 lead with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Amanda Coetzer.

Patrick Rafter of Australia paid a high price for his sportsmanship Wednesday as he lost to Andrei Cherkasov of Russia in the second round of the Australian Hardcourt championships.

With the score at 13-13 in the second set tiebreaker, Rafter, who trailed by a set, overruled the officials by telling them his shot had landed outside the court.

Rafter lost the next point and the match, 6-2 7-6 (15-13).

"Very few guys would do what he did," Cherkasov said. "Normally you wouldn't say anything and just keep playing."

Tim Henman took only 64 minutes Wednesday to beat the Egyptian qualifier, Tamer Sawy, 6-3, 6-2, to reach the quarterfinals of the \$63,000 Qatar Open, one of the ATP Tour's season opening events.

The 22-year-old Briton earned a last-eight meeting with Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, who defeated Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Hicham Arazi of Morocco beat Patrick McEnroe of the United States, 2-6, 7-5, 7-5, and Magnus Larsson beat fellow Swede Patrik Fredriksson, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). (AP, Reuters)

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	7	.767	
Washington	21	9	.700	2 1/2
Orlando	19	11	.633	4 1/2
Atlanta	18	12	.600	5 1/2
Philadelphia	8	22	.267	15 1/2
Boston	6	24	.200	17 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	22	7	.757	
Indiana	19	10	.655	3 1/2
Charlotte	16	13	.556	6 1/2
Atlanta	15	14	.517	7 1/2
Washington	13	16	.448	9 1/2
Toronto	10	19	.345	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NBA STANDINGS

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	24	6	.800	
Utah	21	9	.700	3 1/2
Phoenix	18	12	.600	6 1/2
San Antonio	17	13	.563	7 1/2
Denver	16	14	.538	8 1/2
Vancouver	6	24	.200	18 1/2

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	21	7	.750	
Seattle	21	7	.750	
Portland	16	12	.571	5 1/2
Sacramento	11	17	.393	10 1/2
Golden State	11	17	.393	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	17	.393	10 1/2
Phoenix	11	17	.393	10 1/2

HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Washington	24	12	5	51	125	95
Philadelphia	20	9	9	49	113	89
N.Y. Rangers	20	15	5	45	141	113
New Jersey	20	15	3	43	105	90
Washington	15	20	3	33	107	107
N.Y. Islanders	12	17	3	27	95	106
Tampa Bay	12	19	5	29	102	115

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
St. Louis	24	12	5	51	125	95
Philadelphia	20	9	9	49	113	89
N.Y. Rangers	20	15	5	45	141	113
New Jersey	20	15	3	43	105	90
Washington	15	20	3	33	107	107
N.Y. Islanders	12	17	3	27	95	106
Tampa Bay	12	19	5	29	102	115

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NHL STANDINGS

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Colorado	23	10	3	49	113	102
Edmonton	17	14	3	37	110	90
Vancouver	16	15	3	35	108	102
San Jose	15	16	3	33	107	107
St. Louis	15	20	3	33	107	107
Chicago	15	20	3	33	107	107
Toronto	12	17	5	29	102	115

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Colorado	23	10	3	49	113	102
Edmonton	17	14	3	37	110	90
Vancouver	16	15	3	35	108	102
San Jose	15	16	3	33	107	107
St. Louis	15	20	3	33	107	107
Chicago	15	20	3	33	107	107
Toronto	12	17	5	29	102	115

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

LAS VEGAS BOWL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Nebraska	18	10	1	57	29	102
Alabama	17	11	0	51	28	95
Georgia	16	12	0	48	28	95
Florida	15	13	0	45	28	95
Ohio State	14	14	0	42	28	95
Michigan	13	15	0	39	28	95
Washington	12	16	0	36	28	95
Illinois	11	17	0	33	28	95
Arizona	10	18	0	30	28	95
Utah	9	19	0	27	28	95
Oregon	8	20	0	24	28	95
Washington State	7	21	0	21	28	95
Idaho	6	22	0	18	28	95
Montana	5	23	0	15	28	95
Wyoming	4	24	0	12	28	95
North Dakota	3	25	0	9	28	95
South Dakota	2	26	0	6	28	95
Nebraska	1	27	0	3	28	95
Alabama	0	28	0	0	28	95

ALABAMA BOWL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Alabama	17	11	0	51	28	95
Georgia	16	12	0	48	28	95
Florida	15	13	0	45	28	95
Ohio State	14	14	0	42	28	95
Michigan	13	15	0	39	28	95
Washington	12	16	0	36	28	95
Illinois	11	17	0	33	28	95
Arizona	10	18	0	30	28	95
Utah	9	19	0	27	28	95
Oregon	8	20	0	24	28	95
Washington State	7	21	0	21	28	95
Idaho	6	22	0	18	28	95
Montana	5	23	0	15	28	95
Wyoming	4	24	0	12	28	95
North Dakota	3	25	0	9	28	95
South Dakota	2	26	0	6	28	95
Nebraska	1	27	0	3	28	95
Alabama	0	28	0	0	28	95

CAROLINA BOWL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Carolina	17	11	0	51	28	95
Georgia	16	12	0	48	28	95
Florida	15	13	0	45	28	95
Ohio State	14	14	0	42	28	95
Michigan	13	15	0	39	28	95
Washington	12	16	0	36	28	95
Illinois	11	17	0	33	28	95
Arizona	10	18	0	30	28	95
Utah	9	19	0	27	28	95
Oregon	8	20	0	24	28	95
Washington State	7	21	0	21	28	95
Idaho	6	22	0	18	28	95
Montana	5	23	0	15	28	95
Wyoming	4	24	0	12	28	95
North Dakota	3	25	0	9	28	95
South Dakota	2	26	0	6	28	95
Nebraska	1	27	0	3	28	95
Alabama	0	28	0	0	28	95

HOUSTON BOWL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Houston	17	11	0	51	28	95
Georgia	16	12	0	48	28	95
Florida	15	13	0	45	28	95
Ohio State	14	14	0	42	28	95
Michigan	13	15	0	39	28	95
Washington	12	16	0	36	28	95
Illinois	11	17	0	33	28	95
Arizona	10	18	0	30	28	95
Utah	9	19	0	27	28	95
Oregon	8	20	0	24	28	95
Washington State	7	21	0	21	28	95
Idaho	6	22	0	18	28	95
Montana	5	23	0	15	28	95
Wyoming	4	24	0	12	28	95
North Dakota	3	25	0	9	28	95
South Dakota	2	26	0	6	28	95
Nebraska	1	27	0	3	28	95
Alabama	0	28	0	0	28	95

HOUSTON BOWL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GP	GA
Houston	17	11	0	51	28	95
Georgia	16	12	0	48	28	95
Florida	15	13	0	45	28	95
Ohio State	14	14	0	42	28	95
Michigan	13	15	0	39	28	95
Washington	12	16	0	36	28	95
Illinois	11	17	0	33	28	95
Arizona	10	18	0	30	28	95
Utah	9	19	0	27	28	95
Oregon	8	20	0	24	28	95
Washington State	7	21	0	21	28	95
Idaho	6	22	0	18	28	95
Montana	5	23	0	15	28	95
Wyoming	4	24	0	12	28	95
North Dakota	3	25	0	9	28	95
South Dakota	2	26	0	6	28	95
Nebraska	1	27	0	3	28	95
Alabama	0	28	0	0	28	95

HOUSTON BOWL

N.Y. Rangers	20	16	5	45	141	113	Lemieux 26
New Jersey	20	13	3	43	100	90	Sandstrom 7
Washington	15	20	3	33	102	107	(Barnes, Hici

ART BUCHWALD

The Flu and Me

WASHINGTON — By law, every columnist is permitted one article concerning the flu. It is important that the public be fully informed about the writer's pain and suffering in hopes that the readers can avoid the same experience themselves. Thus the need to know.

The Centers for Disease Control are certain that my flu was in the air conditioning unit of a Boeing 757 flying from Dallas to Washington. They tore the plane apart hoping to capture the bug, but to no avail.



Buchwald

Studies of the plane's manifest revealed that there were three suspects who could have brought the bug on board. Mr. Flamberg who sneezed every time the seat belt signs went on. Mr. Clapboard whose eyes were running the entire trip—his tears pouring over the passenger in the next seat, and Judy Zimberg who used up her entire box of Kleenex over Nashville.

Elvis, Forever Velvet

HOUSTON — A federal judge has ruled that The Velvet Elvis nightclub is entitled to its name and does not violate trademarks held by Elvis Presley's estate. Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. had sued Barry Caprice in 1994 to force him to change the name of his Houston nightclub.

wait to spring on me on Christmas Day (a favorite time for flu bugs to do the most damage).

The morning of the big day arrived and the organism struck with a vengeance. My body could hardly move. My nose was stuffy and my chest felt as if it was made of concrete.

Questions had to be answered. "Did you have a flu shot?" was first.

When I replied, "Yes," the next remark was, "Then you had the wrong one."

While this was very helpful it didn't resolve my problem. The second question was, "Did you call the doctor?"

"I couldn't. He was in Aruba."

"Be sure to drink plenty of fluids."

"Who says so?"

"Your doctor would say that if he wasn't in Aruba."

The next question was, "Do you think you're going to die?"

"Yes."

"Then don't come over because we don't want anyone else to catch it."

If I learned anything from my experience it was to never fly on the same plane as Mr. Flamberg, Mr. Clapboard and Ms. Zimberg. The mystery remains — the CDC still has no evidence that the bug was originally theirs. The only certainty is that I was the last one in full possession of it. The CDC suggested that the only way for me to shake the creature was to board the next Boeing 757 and pass it on through the air conditioning to some poor unsuspecting soul on his way to Florida for a vacation.

A Director's Focus on the Dysfunctional Family

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — Andre Techine is not one for self-promotion. In the world of auteur movies, where the director is often revered like a guru, this shy, ascetic-looking Frenchman does not opine on political issues, rarely appears on television and is not surrounded by a court. Fear of flying even prevents him from attending most film openings or festivals more than a train ride from here. Instead, he allows his movies to speak for him.

Now this low-key approach is paying off. At 53, the director is finally being recognized in France as one of his generation's most skilled craftsmen. And while many French colleagues complain that their films cannot find American distributors, Techine's last three have been released in the United States: "Les Roseaux Sauvages" ("Wild Reeds"), "Ma Saison Preferee" ("My Favorite Season") and now "Les Voleurs" ("Thieves").

At first sight, little seems to unite them, except that Catherine Deneuve and Daniel Auteuil appear in "Ma Saison Preferee" and "Les Voleurs." Yet all three recent stories of dysfunctional families and unrequited love set against a background of broader issues — Algeria's war of independence in "Roseaux Sauvages," the problems of aging in "Ma Saison Preferee" and organized crime in "Les Voleurs." All three have also been received warmly by critics in France and the United States.

"Les Voleurs" is in many ways his most ambitious film. It begins with the image that first came into Techine's mind when he began writing the screenplay: A 10-year-old boy is awakened in the middle of the night by the noise of his father's body being carried into their home; his father has died in an accident, the child is told, but he suspects otherwise.

Techine then sets out to return to this moment, not through a long

flashback but by following various characters whose overlapping lives come together that night.

The first connections are drawn between Ivan, the boy's father, who runs a stolen car ring, and Ivan's detective brother, Alex (Auteuil), who is torn between family loyalty and police duty. One of Ivan's underworld sidekicks is Jimmy, whose sister, Juliette, is mistress to both of the brothers. Juliette, however, finds real affection only with a philosophy professor named Marie (Deneuve), who is infatuated with her.

But the plot remains secondary to the push and pull of characters who form a complex series of duos: Ivan and Alex, who smolder with mutual disdain; the siblings Juliette and Jimmy; the lovers Alex and Juliette; the lovers Juliette (Laurence Cote) and Marie, and finally Alex and Marie, who are drawn together by their rivalry for the elusive Juliette.

Families interest Techine. Even before "Ma Saison Preferee," in which an estranged brother and sister are reconciled by their mother's fatal illness, he was fascinated by what he calls the "chaste passion" between siblings. This theme reappears in "Les Voleurs." He also often favors characters who are outsiders, an echo of his own feeling of being exiled in Paris, even though he arrived here from the provinces 30 years ago.

"All my films have the same themes, albeit in different forms," Techine said in an interview in his Paris apartment overlooking the Luxembourg Gardens. "My evolution is in the way I excavate the same themes. I suppose there's some autobiography, but it's totally deformed. It's a fiction that interests me. But for this fiction to work, it is fed by distant experiences that return to the surface."

"Roseaux Sauvages" is his most autobiographical movie because, like the teenage Techine, the main character, Francois, attends an all-male boarding school. While part of the story revolves around Francois's discovery that he is gay, Techine



Deneuve and Laurence Cote in "Les Voleurs," above, and the director Andre Techine.

said that his principal interest was to evoke how the Algerian war of independence was felt in a rural corner of France.

"If I hadn't been able to inject this, if I had only been making a film about adolescent coming of age, it wouldn't have interested me at all," he said.

The movie nonetheless signals Techine's early interest in cinema: As Francois is shown leaving a movie theater, the camera lingers on posters announcing movies by Jacques Demy and Ingmar Bergman. "Films were my only opening to the world," Techine explained. "They were my only possibility of escaping my family environment and my boarding school. It was probably dangerous because, through movies, I learned how the world works and how human relations work. But it was magical, and I was determined to follow the thread of that magic."



Techine moved to Paris from his hometown in southwest France at the age of 19. And although he failed to be admitted to France's top film school, he wrote movie reviews for the prestigious maga-

zine Cahiers du Cinema. Interviews with well-known directors followed, and soon he began writing screenplays, first for others, then for himself. He made his first movie, "Pauline a sen va," in 1969.

His second came in 1974, with others following on the average of every two years. "Rendez-Vous," with Juliette Binoche, won the award for best director at the 1985 Cannes film festival.

"Roseaux Sauvages" won the best film Cesar, France's equivalent of the Oscar, as well as awards from the New York Film Critics Circle and the National Society of Film Critics in the United States.

Auteuil said he valued working with Techine because of the director's great sensitivity toward his actors.

"He listens, but he never tries to impose something that doesn't come from us," Auteuil said. "He is extremely free, but since he has a very personal vision, despite ourselves we enter into his universe. I have the possibility of expressing things he wants to say, yet what he makes me say is exactly what I want to say."

Working with Techine has evidently appealed to popular French actresses, among them Isabelle Adjani, Sandrine Bonnaire, Emmanuelle Beart and Binoche. But his richest relationship has been with Deneuve who first appeared in his "Hotel des Ameriques" and "Le Lieu du crime" ("Scene of the Crime"), both in the 1980s. In the 1990s, Techine has guided her to her most self-revelatory performances in years, roles that have marked her screen transition from icy icon of beauty to mature actress.

"She remains an absolute mystery to me," the director admitted. "I could easily make a film with her tomorrow because there is still a large reserve that one can tap. I have tried to make her less glamorous and more human, but I think I could go much further because there is still something hidden in her."

NAMES

Wondering Why Girls Aren't Called Hillary?

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The strangest thing has happened to Hillary. Gone. Vanished. Fallen off a cliff.

The name, that is. For decades, the name Hillary had been steadily increasing in popularity in this country.

By 1992, Hillary had edged its way into the top 75 among girls' names. Then, in 1993, Hillary took a nose dive.

"The name just plummets, to one-tenth its 1992 level," says Cleveland Kent Evans, the Nebraska-based onomastician — that's someone who studies names. "I mean, that poor woman."

The first lady, Evans reports, was the first American Hillary to get famous. "She dominates that name completely. Therefore, even admirers won't choose that name because they'd get that question over and over: 'You named your daughter for Hillary Clinton?' It's the quickest fall in a name I've ever seen."

Evans has the goods on names, gathered from parents logged on to the Internet, from birth certificates, from health departments around the United States.

The debate in onomastics is whether names, like everything else these days, are losing their meaning. The obsession with brand names and celebrity is pushing away the significance and uniqueness of personal names.

"Confected names," Edward Callary, another student of names, calls them, cobbled together from existing names. They're all the rage these days: Ashlyn and Kaylin, Amerlyn and even Brooklyn. Danessa and Denaya, Karinda and Kiara. Boys, too: Tevon and Sebron, Jamin and Ashlin, Jaron and Joshion.

Since 1985, Callary has been collecting names of newborns in his home county of DeKalb in Illinois. He has, he is quick to point out, not a representative sample but a complete record of every single name given to a child in the past decade.

The 3,280 boys he has examined were given 442 different names. The 3,178 girls bear 612 different names, con-

firmed the long-held assumption that there are more girls' names to choose from.

But Callary was surprised to find that, contrary to popular belief, girls' names are no more trendy than boys'.

One big difference between boys' and girls' monikers is that parents feel freer to play around with the spelling of daughters' names. Boys' names usually vary only slightly and in very traditional ways — Nicholas and perhaps a few Nikolases. But there are five Ashleys — Ashlee, Ashleigh, Ashli and Ashly — nine forms of Brittany and 11 types of Caitlin.

That difference makes perfect sense to Callary, who sees the proliferation of fanciful spellings of girls' names as evidence that parents view their daughters as somehow less serious and less powerful than their sons.

And Callary has identified a trend in American name-giving that reflects shifting social mores. A startling number of boys' names are crossing the gender divide, becoming first androgynous, then being transformed into exclusively female names.

First it was Shirley and Marion. Then Randy, Casey and Dana. Now, there's a torrent of them: Taylor, Shelby, Tristan. As recently as 1990, Kelsey was a boys' name, if already androgynous. By last year, it had evolved — now often spelled Kelsie — into the 11th most popular girls' name in the United States.

"Shannon is gone, completely a girls' name now," says Callary, not without some concern. "Where will it end? Somewhere down the line, will we have a first lady named Bob?"

The reasons are clear, he believes. "Boys' names are the source of power and influence in the United States. It's natural to gravitate to where the power

is. We still look at men as the source of money and influence."

Names are a quickly shifting barometer of something, though exactly what is open to interpretation. In just 10 years, the list of the five most popular girls' names has changed unusually quickly: In 1985, it was Sarah, Jessica, Megan, Jennifer and Ashley. Last year, it was Sarah, Ashley, Emily, Kaitlin and Alyssa, the last two of which were not even in the top 15 a decade ago.

Even the popularity of boys' names changes with blazing speed. The top five in 1985: Michael, Matthew, Andrew, Joshua and Ryan. Last year: Tyler, Jacob, Matthew, Michael and Austin. Tyler and Austin similarly were nowhere to be found in 1985's top 15.

Go figure. Cleveland Evans has. Thanks to computers and a helpful vital records bureau in Oregon, Evans has been able to track given names according to social class, and the results raise pointed questions about whether your name is your destiny.

College graduates give their children an almost completely different set of names than do working-class parents. Guess which set of selections from the top 10 lists comes from mothers who were high school dropouts and which from mothers who finished college: Emily, Hannah, Katherine, Rachel, Madeline, Madison, Anna.

Jessica, Ashley, Brittany, Haley, Elizabeth, Brianna, Samantha. The first group contains the names picked by college graduates. Now try it for boys: Michael, Austin, Daniel, Christopher, Tyler, Brandon, Christian, David, Matthew, Nicholas, Zachary, Alexander, Benjamin, Ryan, Andrew, Joshua.

This time, it's the second list that's the offspring of the college-educated. Evans says different social classes draw from separate sources in picking names. Popular TV characters explain most of the changes in popularity among high school dropouts and high school graduates, he says, while people with some college or a degree tend toward more traditional names, chosen from family history, the Bible or literature.

THE director of "Evita," Alan Parker, knows how to handle a prima donna — and he had one on his hands in the person of the movie's star, Madonna. "She does complain a lot, because she is Madonna," Parker said. "She moans about how cold it is, how early she has to get up. I just stayed out of her way. I gave my assistant the job of listening to Madonna complain."

The craggy-faced rock-star Johnny Hallyday, who has been booming out songs for over three decades, has been nominated for France's highest civilian award: the Legion of Honor. The singer, 53, was among dozens listed by President Jacques Chirac in a presidential decree. The list revealed an eclectic group, ranging from France's first woman astronaut, Claudie Andre-Deshays, to the designer Pierre Cardin and Jean Favier, the head of French homicide police.

The muscled Belgian actor Jean-Claude Van Damme wants to make sure Nicolas Francois, the 1-year-old son of his estranged wife Darcy LaPiere, is really his and is demanding blood tests to determine whether he's the genetic father. But LaPiere said her husband of two years was "just being cruel for no other reason than he's being cheap and doesn't want to pay child support." Van Damme filed for divorce from LaPiere, his fourth wife, in December.

One of the capital's most prominent "power couples" is making it official. Alan Greenspan, 70, chairman of the Federal Reserve, will marry Andrea Mitchell, 50, a longtime NBC News correspondent. They have been dating for 12 years. "It's really exciting, isn't it," Mitchell said. "We have been together a long time, but I think marriage will be different." Mitchell and Green-



Alan Greenspan and Andrea Mitchell are to marry.

span — both of whom are divorced — had spent Christmas morning with friends before Greenspan popped the question. "We came home and he said, 'Do you want a big wedding or a small wedding,'" the bride-to-be said. No wedding date has been set.

Jane Fonda says she believes in aging gracefully. Fonda, the Oscar-winning actress who later became famous for her workout videos, says she still exercises, but doesn't try the high-energy regimen in her 1983 workout video. "I wouldn't want to, and, no, I don't," she said. "I'm 59 years old. I'd probably get hurt."

The film critics Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert finally agree on something — the best film of the year. The two

thumbs up" guys both named the black comedy "Fargo" as their favorite film of 1996. The offbeat murder tale, directed and written by brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, tracks bungling killers through Minnesota and North Dakota. "Secrets and Lies" and "Breaking the Waves" also are high on both critics' top 10 lists. Siskel chose the gangster film "Mad Dog Time" as the worst movie of the year, while Ebert selected "Little Indian, Big City."

George Wallace's friends and family are complaining that the script for a TV movie about the former governor portrays him as a foul-mouthed, suicidal man. "They make him out to be some backwoods ignorant Southerner and I resent Hollywood always portraying Southerners that way," said Wallace's son, George Wallace Jr. The script is for a Turner Network Television movie. Wallace made his "stand in the schoolhouse door" in 1963 to prevent blacks from attending the University of Alabama. He was paralyzed in a 1972 assassination attempt and is in poor health. He long ago renounced his segregationist views.

Prince Charles has allocated a bedroom at his country house to his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, and ordered staff there to address her as "m'lady." The Daily Mirror reported. It quoted a member of staff at Highgrove, the prince's west of England house, as saying: "We don't have a problem addressing Camilla as m'lady. If that's what the boss wants, that's what will happen."

President Vaclav Havel's office will be smoke-free in 1997, part of an effort to encourage the chain-smoker to kick the habit after his surgery for lung cancer. Smoking has been prohibited in the office as of New Year's Day.



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Italy	00-39-2-478-111
Netherlands	00-31-20-478-111
Spain	00-34-91-50-11
Sweden	00-46-8-735-111
Switzerland	00-41-22-33-111
United Kingdom	00-44-20-707-111
MIDDLE EAST	
Egypt (Cairo)	00-20-2-22-111
Israel	00-972-3-272-111
Saudi Arabia	00-966-1-400-111
AFRICA	
Kenya	00-254-1-211-111
Nigeria	00-900-1-211-111
South Africa	00-27-1-211-111

